

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Read by more than 72,000 people

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Trader's fury

Dismay as artefact is stolen from shop

See Page 8



True colours

Key to designs as history flagged up

See page 14



Dream is over

Chamber's dismay at mid-table finish

See back page



Leisure centres will now go ahead

TWO new leisure centres look set to be built after scaled back plans were rejected by councillors. Long-awaited proposals to build new centres in Oak Park and Bloxwich, were under threat after costs rocketed.

But new options put forward, which included building two smaller leisure centres, were thrown out by members of a scrutiny panel last week.

Blakenall Councillor Pete Smith said: "We have a duty and a vision for the future. If we don't use this opportunity now we will lose it. Anything less than option one will not be good enough."

Leisure and culture boss Councillor Anthony Harris added: "I have a long term vision on leisure centres. We need fitter people in our community. I even want to see new leisure centres in other areas of Walsall."

New centres are due to be built in Oak Park, in Walsall Wood, and Bloxwich to replace dated facilities.

It was originally expected to cost a total of between £15 to £21 million – but the expected cost has risen to nearly £24m.

It comes as Walsall Council faces £21m budget cuts in the coming year and 277 job losses.

The plans will now go to cabinet to be discussed.

Man stabbed in park attack

A MAN suffered serious injuries after being stabbed in a park in broad daylight.

Police were called to Wilenhall Memorial Park in Pinson Road on Monday afternoon. The 40-year-old was taken to hospital after being stabbed in the torso and, although serious, his injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

A 15-year-old boy was later on suspicion of assault and remained in custody on Tuesday morning. Officers said it was not believed to be a random attack.

DEATH SPARKS CROSSING CALL

RESIDENTS are calling for pedestrian crossings to be built along the busy Brownhills Road where 12-year-old Jack Garrington was knocked down.

A petition has been started by campaigners following the death of the popular Shire Oak Academy pupil who was in collision with a lorry on Chester Road in Brownhills near the Anchor pub on Thursday.

He died at the scene of the crash despite efforts to save him. Now members of the community have come forward to back calls for traffic calming measures to be put in place along Chester Road North.

They also want to see Lindon Road's zebra crossing replaced with traffic lights.

Ward councillor David Turner gave his support to the petition.

He said: "This section of Chester Road down to Newton Road is one of the busiest in the country and there have been many calls to the Highways Agency to do something about it.

Support

"There are people trying to cross the busy dual carriageway while buses are stopping and starting there all the time. There is one pedestrian crossing and I think that there needs to be at least three, especially after what happened. It is a shame that it takes the death of a young man for a petition to be set up and for something to be done about the situation. I hope the Government will take notice and put in some more crossings."

The petition currently has 160 signatures while a Facebook page set up in support of road improvements has more than 2,000 supporters.

Report by Charlotte Lilley

The petition reads: "We have set up this petition to highlight and show Walsall MBC the strong feelings that people have regarding the lack of pedestrian crossings for the Shire Oak schoolchildren. Everyday the children walking up and down Chester Road have to contend with the Anchor bridge and Lindon Road junction where there is a pathetic bollard and fast-moving traffic. There is also on Lindon Road an out of the arc zebra crossing which needs to be updated to traffic lights as the cars rarely stop."

"No other family should have to have the heartache that Jack's family are going through right now." Since the accident scores of children have visited the scene where Jack died and left ties, flowers and tributes.

About 30 claret coloured school ties also lie on the roadside while a further 25 ties from the academy in nearby Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, also decorate a green lamp post. Councillor Turner added: "It is nice to see the children are prepared to show a mark of respect like this and just goes to show how well liked this young lad was."

● Vigil – See Page 2

£60k target to fulfil Amber's dream



Pelsall Village school have launched an appeal to raise £60,000 for Amber Porterfield, seen with mum Susannah

AMBER Porterfield has a dream – that one day she will be able to walk. And now an entire community is getting behind a £60,000 fundraising effort to help the five-year-old.

The Pelsall Village School Year 1 pupil has spastic diplegic cerebral palsy and uses a walking frame and a wheelchair to get about. Her family have launched the appeal, with the help of the school, to come up with the cash to cover the costs of a life-changing operation in the United States.

If it proves successful the treatment will help her to walk unaided.

The proceeds will also help the fam-

ily to go with her to the Cerebral Palsy Centre at the St Louis Children's Hospital, Missouri, for the selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) operation.

She has limited mobility in her lower limbs because the signals from her brain to the spine do not work.

The proposed procedure on her spine would test the nerves with electrodes to find which is causing the stiffness in her lower limbs. This nerve would then be cut. Her mother Susannah Kemp, aged 33, explains: "Amber was assessed last year to see whether she could have this operation here.

Then in January she had a fol-

low-up consultation and we were told that she was suitable. However, a few weeks later I found out that funding for this operation by the NHS was stopped in April last year. "That is why we are going to America. We have already raised £3,500 online and by people phoning the school which is brilliant. The school has been great."

Events start tomorrow, Good Friday with a charity night at the Saddlers Supporters Club, in Bescot Crescent. Other events include a boxing night featuring Amber's dad Mark and a charity night is due at Pelsall Labour Club.

Husband who killed bride gets 21 years

A GAY bank worker who murdered his wife and burnt her body after she threatened to expose his sexuality has been jailed for a minimum of 21 years.

Jasvir Ram Ginday was given a life sentence for the pre-meditated killing of his new bride Varkha Rani.

The 29 year-old put a metal pipe from a vacuum cleaner against her throat at their home in Victory Lane, Walsall, on September 12 last year. He then burnt her body in a garden incinerator.

He then reported the 24-year-old as missing to police but when officers went to investigate they found her body.

Ginday, who had denied murder but admitted manslaughter, remained motionless while sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He was convicted by a jury after more than 17 hours of deliberations.

Sentencing him Judge John Warner said: "Killing her was a dreadful enough thing to have done, but what followed was horrible almost beyond imagining."

The couple had married during a lavish ceremony in India in March of last year.

But Ginday had hidden the fact he was gay from his bride and when she found out he killed her.

● Secret – See Page 5

Warehouse plan passed

PLANS for a discount warehouse creating around 60 new jobs have been given the go-ahead.

Bosses say the £1.5 million JTF outlet could be open at Bescot Retail Park in Walsall by the summer.

The new 45,000sq ft store is expected to create 20 full-time and 40 part-time jobs. The application was approved at a Walsall planning committee. Council leader Mike Bird said: "I am pleased because it is good for the area."

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Drunken angry ex smashed window

A MAN smashed a window at his ex-partner's home with a piece of drainage pipe when she would not let him in. Adrian Johnson arrived at the house on March 5 and banged on the door in a drunken rage demanding to come in, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

When his ex-partner refused he took a piece of drainage pipe and struck the window with it causing it to smash.

The 28-year-old, of Buckingham Drive, Willenhall, pleaded guilty to one charge of criminal damage.

He also admitted being in breach of an earlier six month jail sentence for theft which had been suspended for 18 months.

The court was told he had been given that sentence after stealing an Xbox from his ex-partner's home on July 10, 2013. Judge Martin Walsh decided not to activate the suspended sentence after being told Johnson was making efforts to deal with his alcohol problem. He gave him a further two-month suspended jail term for the criminal damage.

But he said both suspended sentences would now run for two years – and Johnson would serve both if he committed any further breaches over that period.

Pledge on pool closure

BOSSES said works that will close a swimming pool for two weeks will improve conditions. The Brine Pool in Walsall has shut, but the main pool will remain open.

A new air handling unit is being installed to improve air conditions in the pool hall and changing rooms. In addition two new swimming pool filters are being installed.

Walsall sport and leisure chief Peter Jeffery said: "These works will enhance both the water quality and temperatures for the benefit of all our users." The pool will reopen on April 28.

Egg hunts due

FIVE Easter egg hunts take place in Walsall. The first is at Willenhall Memorial Park tomorrow, followed by King George V Playing Fields, Bloxwich on Saturday, Holland Park, Brownhills on Sunday, Palfrey Park on Monday and at Blackwood Park, Streetly on Tuesday.

Pizza takeaway raided by armed thugs



Pizza Hut, raided on Thursday, February 20

ARMED with crowbars and an axe, this dramatic image shows how a gang of thugs raided a pizza takeaway.

Pizza Hut in Willenhall Road, Portobello has been targeted twice in recent weeks and now detectives are on the trail of the suspects.

It was raided at around 9pm on February 20 and again around 9.30pm on March 6.

On each occasion men with crowbars and an axe jumped over the counter, threatened staff and stole cash from the till.

Police believe the same offenders could be responsible for both raids and have today

released CCTV images in a bid to identify them. They show the men storming into the premises and one of them leaving carrying a cash tray from a till.

The attacks have led to security being stepped up at the shop.

Offenders

Police hope anyone who knows or recognises the suspects will come forward with information.

DC Damon Millar, from Force CID, said: "We believe the offenders could be from the local area as they made off on foot, so

I would urge anyone who recognises them to contact me on 101. "The owners of Pizza Hut have stepped up security at the premises since the robberies, including personal attack alarms for all staff members."

Meanwhile police are examining forensic evidence taken from the premises and trawling local CCTV.

There are up to four men with masked faces and all wearing dark clothing with hooded sports tops.

Anyone not wishing to speak to a police officer can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Crackdown on buskers as new rules are drawn up

SPECIFIC pitches for buskers are to be introduced in town centres to crackdown on complaints.

Walsall Council chiefs have drawn up a code of conduct as part of efforts by licensing chiefs to introduce a policy aimed to maintain and attract good quality street entertainers in the borough, and keep complaints of noise nuisance to a minimum.

The code of conduct was adopted during a meeting of the full council at Walsall Council House on Monday.

Walsall town centre locations in the new policy include outside St Paul's Church near the main bus station, Park Street, The Saddlers Centre, Digbeth, Leicester Street, Tower Street and Gallery Square.

There are also specific sites earmarked in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston, Palsall and Willenhall. Forms of entertainment can include singing, dance, music, juggling without knives or fire, and drumming.

Acts involving weapons, fire, nudity and animals, other than registered assistance dogs, will not be permitted. Buskers must have adequate public liability insurance and if aged under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Street entertainment would be allowed any day of the week between 9am and 8pm.

Hours could be extended to coincide with late night shopping and special events, but buskers will not be allowed to perform at any location for longer than an hour.

Councillor Zahid Ali, portfolio holder for public health and protection, said: "We will put some kind of criteria in place and we will see how it works over the next 12 months."

AN Easter eggstravaganza was organised for a newly-opened sweet shop to herald the start of the holy season.

Sweet success for Easter is hoped



Owners Sara Batchelor and Melissa Osborne prepare for Easter with their sweet filled cart and carousel at their new shop

children's faces light up when they see the Easter bunny. With the Easter holidays beginning it is the ideal time to come to the shop and join in the fun that we have organised to keep children entertained.

"This is our first Easter in business so we are both looking forward to it and selling lots of lovely chocolate."

The two women from Heath Hayes became good friends because their daughters attend Five Ways Primary School together in Cannock.

They opened the shop last November with help from Cannock Chase Council.

Mrs Batchelor added: "Melissa had a candy cart that she used to hire out to people at weddings and parties and I was making wedding invites and cards when we both decided to merge and open the shop. Not only does it sell sweets but we also have a gift section, balloons and a ferris wheel that people can fill with sweets and hire for events."

NEWS in brief

Big kick-off for soccer sessions

YOUNG footballers can get kitted up for soccer sessions aimed at 12 to 16-year-olds being organised by Walsall College, the Birmingham County FA and Streetly-based Starland St Annes FC.

The sessions are held at Sheffield Community Academy and Phoenix Collegiate Academy every Monday. For more information visit the www.birminghamfa.com/players/fa-vauxhall-mash-up website, call Olly Hitchcox on 0121 357 4278.

Official start for entrepreneur hub

A FACILITY which nurtures young business talent officially opens today, Thursday. The Talent Navigator Enterprise Hub, based at the Waterfront development, has been running since January.

But today, invited guests will have the opportunity to informally meet and hear from entrepreneurs. The hub's managing director Akshay Parikh said: "We're very excited about the potential this has for young business minds here in Walsall."

Food firm wins £3m chain deal

BLAKEMORE Foodservice has won a three-year contract supplying roadside restaurant chain OK Diners. The Walsall business will supply OK Diners with fresh, ambient, chilled and frozen goods and drinks from next month.

The firm has a 69,000sq ft depot at its HQ in Walsall, and is part of the A F Blakemore & Son group based at Longacres Industrial Estate in Willenhall.

Exercise classes for MS sufferers

A NEW exercise initiative for people with multiple sclerosis has been set up.

MS sufferers will be able to take part in the sessions at the Stan Ball Centre in Bloxwich every Wednesday from April 30. MS Society secretary Andy Brown said: "I am looking forward to this new project."

The sessions will be held from 1-2pm.

Speed concerns

COMPLAINTS have been made about speeding drivers on roads in a village. Councillor David Cliff has called for a mobile speed enforcement van to monitor roads in Essington following the complaints.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



MORE on the seven-a-day fruit and vegetable debate. One reader asks whether knowing a Swede counts as one portion. Another reader tells me his lifestyle should qualify as a few portions. He is a couch potato.

ANY bets on how long this fad for seven portions of fruit and vegetables will last before some scientist discovers a dramatic increase in human flatulence is destroying the ozone layer?

SO FAREWELL, Maria Miller. All along, David Cameron insisted the former culture secretary had "done the right thing" when he, she and the whole world knew that the only right thing was resignation. A reader says he recalls that back in 1975 the rock group Queen foresaw David Cameron's long and pointless defence of Miller with a line in Bohemian Rhapsody: "Ms Miller, no! / We will not let her go." Yes, it was something like that.

TONY Blair says politicians should be prepared to start wars – even if the people are against it. He believes the opposition of the people "doesn't invalidate the necessity to intervene." This is breath-taking stuff. If a government goes to war when the people are against it, in whose name are you dropping those bombs? Whose interests are you serving – the interests of an American president, perhaps? Blair is a great gift to conspiracy theorists. When you hear him speak, you could almost believe this world is run in the interests of New World Order organisations like the Illuminati or global banking. What a scary man he is. I interviewed him four times. Never liked him. Never understood his appeal.

"DIGITAL Age Drove Auntie to Dignitas" was a typical headline on the report about an 89-year-old British woman who was allowed to commit suicide at the Dignitas Clinic in Switzerland even though she was neither seriously handicapped nor terminally ill. It seems she was depressed by every modern thing from the rise of ready meals to computers, emails, television, destruction of the environment and "people becoming more and more remote." But while the image of an old lady driven to suicide by the digital age makes great headlines, most reports downplayed a significant fact. The lady, identified only as Anne, had been seriously ill last year and spent 11 days in hospital. She described the experience as "unadulterated hell." I bet that chimes with thousands of elderly folk who have been pitchforked by illness from the ordered serenity of their own homes into the uncaring indignity of a hospital ward full of the sort of people, both patients and staff, that you normally try to avoid. Knowing the future will probably bring more such "unadulterated hell," who wouldn't consider Dignitas? The digital age is painted as the villain in this story but I bet the NHS played a part.

WHEN the Sheffield half-marathon was cancelled because of a shortage of drinking water, I was so proud of my fellow Yorkshirefolk. First, with reet grand Northern disregard for the instructions, the runners ignored the cancellation and carried on running. Secondly, local folk armed themselves with thousands of bottles of mineral water and sold the runners as much as they could buy. Hang on. I have just been told that the locals actually gave the water away, for nowt. Are we absolutely sure this happened in Yorkshire?

WINE wisdom. The Times advises its readers not to order "house white, please" in restaurants but to try: "Have you got a vognier-style aromatic white, the sort you might find in the Dolomites?" And if you do say that, can you guess which word will flash into the mind of the waiter and anyone else within earshot? Rhymes with anchor.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Joy for town postbox campaigners

CAMPAIGNERS are celebrating after Royal Mail bowed to public pressure and reopened their post box. Residents were left scratching their heads for a reason why the pillar box, in Roberts Close, Moxley, is out of use – and even wrote to the Queen to complain. It was taped up following a decision to close the nearby post office that had stood in Burns Road.

Householders and businesses had to make their way to another post office, in Kendrick Road off Great Bridge Road to post letters. When the postal service was moved residents were consulted, but they claim there was no mention of removing the mail box. Royal Mail spokesperson Val Boden said: "The postbox at Roberts Close, by the Burns Road estate in

Moxley was sealed shortly after the nearby post office closed and moved a short distance away to a new location at Kendrick Road, Moxley. We have, however, listened to local residents asking for the postbox to be reopened." Darlaston South representative Councillor Doug James said the closure of the post box two weeks ago was a blow to the area that is

already suffering from a loss of traders. He said it was taped up without warning without information signs to explain the situation. But he welcomed the announcement and said: "We are all delighted with this news from Royal Mail. Having a convenient mail box should be part of everyday life, part of being British really."

Club gets £400 to help with breakfast

A COMMUNITY centre has received a much-needed cash boost of £400. Blakenall Community Centre in Walsall will use the cash from Kellogg's to help support its breakfast club.

Bosses at the centre set up its breakfast club nearly two years ago and it provides free breakfasts for senior school children. Dan Garbett from the centre said: "The reason our club works so well is because it provides children with a safe environment to come and have their breakfast and without it, the majority of them would go to school without anything to eat. We are so grateful for the help of companies like Kellogg's who have provided financial support to our breakfast club."

As well as giving children a free breakfast and doing activities such as football, arts and crafts, the club also gives youngsters advice on sexual health, alcohol and intervenes if any of the children are having problems at school.

Paul Wheeler, a Kellogg's director, added: "We want all children to get the best start to the day so they can reach their full potential which is why it's important to support clubs like Blakenall Community Centre."

Beeping horn driver sought

A MYSTERY motorist who stopped a savage street robbery by beeping their horn as they drove past is being sought by police.

The attackers had stamped on the victim's head at the time at Bilston Lane, near the Keyway roundabout, Willenhall after he left McDonald's.

The 22-year-old, who clung onto his mobile phone throughout the beating, remembers other people being around as the attack took place on Saturday April 5. Witnesses or the motorist should call 101 and speak to CID at Walsall Police.

Road set to close

A ROAD in Walsall will be closed for more than two weeks to allow for water mains repairs. Pugh Crescent in Bentley will be shut to all traffic from next Thursday. The project is due to finish on May 9. The work is being carried out by Heartland Pipelines.

Murder came after gay secret revealed

THEY had married in a lavish Indian ceremony which was meant to pave the way for their new life together.

But Jasvir Ginday was hiding a secret from his new wife – the fact that he was gay. And he was not going to allow her to let his secret come out.

He strangled his 24-year-old new bride with a metal pipe from a vacuum cleaner before burning her body in an incinerator in the back garden of their home in Victory Lane, Walsall.

In an elaborate attempt to cover up what he had done the 29-year-old plotted to portray himself as the victim and went to Walsall Police Station to report his wife as missing. He even said she had assaulted him by pushing him down the stairs when he had attempted to stop her from packing her bags and leaving.

But shocked police who went to their home to investigate found the body of Varkha Rani after saying they could smell something 'horrible' near the property.

Even when the case came to court Ginday claimed he wasn't guilty of her murder.

He instead admitted manslaughter, saying he didn't mean to kill her.

Snapped

The defence claimed he had 'snapped' after his wife had found out about his sexuality and was going to expose him.

But the jury saw through his claims and last Tuesday he was found guilty of his wife's murder.

Ginday, aged 32, who was seen with scratches on his face, also expressed concerns to a friend when he claimed that Varkha had only married him to get into the country.

The couple married in India in March last year and Varkha arrived in the UK on August 10. Ginday said he had visited India for less than a week in October 2012 and met 15 women before choosing Varkha to be his arranged match.

On the day of the murder on September 12 last year, the couple had been into Walsall town centre with other family members. They returned home in the afternoon and were left in the property alone when Ginday's mother went out.

When the body was discovered police officers had gone to the house to investigate the missing person report. During the trial, it was suggested that Varkha's remains may have been taken away by binmen if they had not been found by police. A post mortem on his wife's body had been unable to give a conclusive medical cause of death due to 'extensive heat damage'.

Pathologist Dr Alexander Kolar, who carried out the post mortem, said there were signs of lacerations and a fractured skull, believed to



Ginday, who was sentenced to 21 years



An incinerator like the one Ginday used



The couple at their wedding – before the horror that followed



The couple's back garden, where the body was burned

have been sustained after she had died. Det Sgt Sangha said it had taken some time to identify Varkha's body due to there being no dental records for her in the UK. "We had to wait for her dad to come into the country so we could get a DNA sample from him and establish it was Varkha who was found in the bin," he said. During the course of the trial, the jury heard that Sgt Rachel Bell, a custody officer at Bloxwich police station, said Ginday was calm and composed when he was brought in. He was kept under constant supervision after expressing concerns about previous suicidal thoughts and a history of depression, but a doctor found him fit

enough to be detained, interviewed and charged. The jury was told that traces of DNA were found on a metal pole and claw hammer discovered at the scene and matched the profile of Varkha. On the day of the murder, Ginday had been captured on CCTV going to a service station in the early afternoon. He was then seen putting fuel into a drinks bottle, but being a small amount staff decided not to challenge him. Former Alumwell School and Wolverhampton University student Ginday, who had also admitted perverting the course of justice, claimed his wife had confronted him over gay material she had found on his iPhone and iPad.

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Treats for children on wards at Easter

GENEROUS businesses and voluntary groups have amassed 1,000 Easter eggs for a charity set up in memory of a teenager who was fatally stabbed.

Charity Rosie's Helping Hands will hand out the eggs to children who are in hospital over the holiday, as well as to various children's projects and organisations.

The gifts were donated by shops, pubs and clubs in Walsall that urged their customers to donate an egg.

The charity was set up by Karen and Sean Ross 13 years ago following the fatal stabbing of their 16-year-old daughter Rosie while on a shopping trip in Birmingham.

Mrs Ross, of Aldridge, said: "We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of the Easter egg collection. Sean and I are overwhelmed by people's generosity. Initially we started the collection in Aldridge as we wanted to collect enough eggs to give to children on the children's ward at City Hospital and for children who attend some of the projects we support."

But the eggs rolled in within just a few weeks and total 1,000. More information is on website at www.rosieshelpinghands.org

Young look at transport

YOUNG people will get the chance to advise transport bosses on the needs of the next generation of passengers.

Transport authority Centro has formed a youth forum to get views on bus, train and tram services and how they could be improved for younger users.

The 29-strong team will help shape the future of public transport by meeting regularly with Centro staff.

The group will also be tasked with helping to form ideas to better connect passenger information with new technology.

Great War talk

A TALK on the impact the First World War had on inhabitants in and around Walsall takes place on Monday, April 28. Paul Ford, of Great Wyrley Local History Society, gives the talk at the senior citizens club, Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley, at 7.30pm. Entry is £1.

Range of products backed by Laurence



Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen with Mr Woodhall

A NEW home furnishing chain has opened in the former Hooty's store in Willenhall by interior designer Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen.

The Range has taken over the site after Hooty's closed in December following 50 years of trading.

And the flamboyant TV presenter hailed the store as a boost for the area.

He spoke to shoppers and staff at the Longcres Industrial Estate store this morning after cutting the ribbon to the revamped premises. People were queuing outside for three hours before the store opened at 9am.

The homestyle consultant, who shot to fame on makeover show Changing Rooms in the late 1990s, said: "I love The Range and the staff are incredibly friendly."

"Today has a real village fete feeling about it. Everyone has come from the local community and families have come with children and grandparents and it has been lovely meeting them all."

There were 100 people in queue to be the first to see inside the latest branch of the chain, some who had been waiting since 6am.

More arrive after the tape had been cut,

with 300 pouring through the doors in first 20 minutes. Mr Llewellyn-Bowen was meeting and greeting at the entrance and posing for photos.

Store manager Darren Woodhall said: "It's absolutely fantastic. We have had people queueing before we opened and we are all excited."

He said he hoped loyal Hooty's customers will still visit the premises.

Around 95 staff who worked at the old store were able to keep their jobs. The company plan to recruit a further 30 temporary staff over the coming months.

Mother hits out at thieves as mobility scooter stolen

A MOTHER of four says she has lost her independence after thieves stole her mobility scooter worth £1,500.

Julia Macdonald-Barber, aged 53, of Moxley Road, Darlaston, has been left distraught after she discovered it missing while moving into a new house. The vehicle was bought for her as a present by her son Lee and she says it has become a lifeline.

Festival to be boosted by wares

A RANGE of merchandise including flags and T-shirts is being produced to raise funds to help stage events for the Black Country Day festival.

Not-for-profit organisation Black Country Festival Events is also selling mugs, key rings and stickers for car bumpers and windcreens and wheelie bins to build funds for the celebrations.

Its treasurer Steve Edwards, who also runs The Only Way is Dudley Facebook page, said all the merchandise bore the new Black Country flag. "All the profits will go back in to helping put on events on Black Country Day itself - July 14 - and throughout July."

The Black Country merchandise can be bought through the website www.blackcountryfestivalevents.co.uk

Festivals will also be held in Darlaston and Willenhall to celebrate Black Country Day. The Darlaston festival will be held from July 10 to 12. The Willenhall festival is taking place from July 24 to 26.

Mrs Macdonald-Barber, who suffers from a spinal condition, said: "On the day the scooter was stolen I was moving house."

"I put it outside my new home because we were carting things back and forth and when I returned from my old house in Walsall Street I saw that it had gone."

"I rely on my scooter so much to get out and about and without it I am house-bound. I can't buy a new one because it will cost too much and I don't have any money saved for one. This is the last thing I expected to happen and it has made me question moving to the area in the first place."

The scooter is dark blue with cream-coloured wheels and has a black basket on the front.

She uses it to take her dogs for walks and play outside with her two grandchildren.

She added: "Lee saved up a lot of money for the scooter and it took him quite a while to get all the money together. It was one of the best presents I have had. I usually keep it in a box and when it was stolen I was fetching the box from the old house so that I could store it."

"I just can't believe anyone would do this."

Witnesses and anyone with information is urged to contact police on 101.

Asda clicks into action with service



From left, deputy mayor Councillor Pete Smith, Councillors Angela Underhill and Rose Burley, Express & Star Deputy Editor Diane Davies, and seated, store manager Lyndsey Newmarch with colleagues to launch the new service

A NEW click and collect service has been launched at a supermarket, creating seven jobs.

It allows customers at Asda in Darlaston to pick up their shopping without going to the effort of pushing a trolley round the store. They can make the order online and then arrange a two-hour slot to collect it.

When they arrive customers will be given an order number, and their shopping will be brought out within five minutes. Bosses say the service

is already proving popular and, along with online deliveries, is seen as the future of shopping.

Community life colleague Cath Whitehouse, who runs the service, said: "Our hope is that this will take off and it seems to be doing well so far. I think the way we live nowadays in this computerised age, this fits in well with people's busy lives."

"This is the direction things are heading in and life is so quick that people need help to save them time."

We even get businesses coming to do their tea, coffee and milk run at the start of the week."

Mrs Whitehouse said it was hoped the service would expand further in the coming months. If shoppers make an order before 11pm, they can collect it before 10am the next day. Any made after 11pm mean collections can be made from 4-10pm. A row of freezers have been set up in the 'hub' behind the scenes, to keep bags of frozen food separate once an order is ready.

NEWS in brief

Plea for summer reading helpers

VOLUNTEERS are being encouraged to help children to take up reading and develop their skills.

People aged 16 to 25 across Walsall are being asked to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Volunteers will need to be able to commit to six hours minimum per week during the day time from Mid July to September.

To apply online visit <http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/libraries> or call 01922 659555 for details.

Young training on healthcare

HEALTH apprentices at a hospital will be given an insight into social care at a council as part of a new pilot exchange scheme.

The exchange aims to give the apprentices a greater understanding of the roles of both health and social care in supporting residents in Walsall.

Six health apprentices will go to Walsall Council with five social care apprentices moving across to Walsall Manor Hospital for a four-week placement which started last week.

Crafty sessions set for museum

YOUNGSTERS are invited to take part in two craft sessions at Walsall Museum. Today, Thursday, children aged five to 12 will be able to make bunnies and next Thursday, children can make a concertina book decorated with leaves and flowers.

Both sessions will be led by experienced craft artist Ruth Radcliffe. They take place between 11am and 1pm and cost 75p per child.

Fourth lane shut due to camera

THE fourth lane of the M6 was closed during rush hour due to a camera fault. The hard shoulder, which opens up at busy times, was forced to remain shut between junction 10 at Walsall and 10a at Essington last Wednesday.

The Highways Agency said safety was the priority and work was done to repair it as soon as possible.

Delays on road

A ROAD is in place for water main works to be carried out at West Bromwich Road, Walsall, between the junctions of Grange Street and Delves Road. Traffic restrictions will be in place until April 27.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS



IN THE age of text-speak, Twitter and whatever other means youngsters use to communicate today, teachers really have their work cut out trying to instil the importance of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

But while it probably won't ever make it onto the National Curriculum, the story about the sign outside a pub in Cornwall is a lesson for every youngster who can't be bothered with all that boring stuff.

'The Wig & Pen is open for business' is what the sign should have said. However, the sign-writer somehow got it wrong, forgetting to leave a space between the 'pen' and the 'is'.

And that's the trouble. Learning boring old rules about sentence structure and non-phonetic spelling seems terribly boring and old-fashioned when you're 14. But ignoring it can leave you looking like a right 'pen is'.

A TABLOID report this week claimed that half a million patients who received cosmetic surgery are now at risk of black-mail.

Apparently, thousands of women who had breast implant surgery, or 'boob jobs' as they are known in the trade, are now at risk of having their secret exposed. So to speak.

Just a thought. If your 'boob job' is so secret that nobody knows about it, well, it can't really have worked, can it?

A COUPLE of years ago, I interviewed a fellow who told me how his in-laws did not speak to one another when he first got married.

"The one side of the family was from Colley Gate, and the other was from Cradley, and for a while they didn't speak to one another because I had married a 'foreigner'," he said.

For those not familiar with this part of the world, Colley Gate and Cradley are about a mile apart.

Times have changed, but the story illustrates the futility of trying to create a 'Greater Birmingham city region', which has been rearing its head again lately.

And while we're on the subject, why do public authorities persist with banging on about the 'four Black Country boroughs'?

The Black Country is a loosely-defined concept which has been around for centuries. It is nothing to do with 1970s local government boundaries.

Government, both central and local should stick to sorting out the economy, maintaining order and emptying the bins.

And not delude itself into believing that you can change ancient identities with a few new signs.



Rescuing a trapped construction worker in Bearwood



The team winches a 30st woman out of her flat



Unpredictable - firefighters are sometimes called

Whatever danger they'll deal with it

Trapped worker or cow, a specialist team of firefighters is ready, as **PETER MADELEY** found out

THEIR challenges have included winching a man to safety from the side of a skyscraper to rescuing a builder covered up to his neck in soil at the bottom of an 18ft trench. And they also put out fires.

The West Midlands Fire Service Technical Rescue Unit (TRU) is a specialist team of firefighters deployed on the toughest, high-risk call-outs where disaster can lurk around every corner.

Based at Bickenhill Fire Station, near to Birmingham's NEC, the four eight-man crews support regular crews when their specialised skills and equipment are required. And the Black Country now has its own unit, with a 32-man team stationed in Wednesbury.

Collapsed

The units are charged with tackling the most complex jobs, including sea and river rescues, flooding assistance, rope, confined space and altitude rescue and casualty extrication.

One dramatic scene involved the TRU assisting other emergency services with the rescue of a construction worker who had become trapped under two tons of soil when a trench he was working on collapsed.

When the crew arrived at Barclay Road, Bearwood, the man was covered up to his neck 18ft down in the trench.

Crew Commander Rob Norman, of Blue Watch, says: "One side of the trenches had caved in leaving one of the workers trapped in the bottom of the trench." Only his head was visible.



Nerves of steel - 100ft up while Birmingham's The Cube was being built

"We worked with ambulance crews and other fire crews, using specialist stretcher equipment and a hoist to extricate him from the hole.

"It was a long and complicated job because there was a danger the rest of the trench could collapse at any minute."

Last year the team was called out to a house in the West Midlands to assist an obese woman who was trapped in her bedroom and was struggling to breathe.

"The woman was more than 30 stone and needed to leave the house for urgent hospital treatment," Mr Norman

says. "She was having breathing difficulties but had become housebound and because of her size paramedics were unable to get her to an ambulance. She was basically trapped in an upstairs room."

The crew decided the quickest way to bring her out was to cut away the window frame of the upstairs bedroom and use ropes and a stretcher to winch her down.

In February the unit was called to Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, to help after a large tree blew over in gale

force winds and crushed a car, trapping three passengers, two of whom were seriously injured. Mr Norman says: "It was a delicate and intensive operation because the tree had completely crushed the roof of the vehicle and three people were trapped inside unable to move."

The units were developed in the UK as part of the government's anti-terrorism measures after the 9/11 attacks in the US and London bombings in July 2005.

"We are trained and kitted out to deal with large scale operations," Mr Norman says. "But the principal remains the same whatever situation we are deployed to deal with, be it a traffic collision involving heavy transportation or an animal rescue."

He adds: "If a job requires us to cut through concrete or steel we are equipped to deal with it, and the same applies to heavy lifting or rope rescues."

Since April 2013 the units have added a more conventional task to their remit - tending to fires. "Initially we were firefighters who dealt with almost every incident except fires," Mr Norman says "But that changed last year."

Pressure

The unit took on 32 recruits in preparation for the official opening of the Black Country's first Technical Rescue Unit at Wednesbury Fire Station on April 1. The trained firefighters have been through a rigorous training process

One, Steve Mann, says: "The training is hard and you have to take on a lot of extra skills. Often you have to make decisions quickly and under pressure."

A crew from the TRU was called to perform a training exercise when Birmingham's iconic The Cube was under construction in 2010.

Mr Norman says: "They were asking the questions 'what do we do if someone gets hurt whilst working 100ft in the air?' 'how do we get someone up there to deal with an incident?' Showing people how to deal with potentially difficult situations is part of our job."

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT



THERE was a bigger scandal than the resignation of Maria Miller as Culture Secretary; the sacking of Michael Fabricant as a Conservative party vice chairman.

The always-entertaining blond bombshell that is Lichfield MP 'Mickey Fab' was dropped because he is about to lead a rebellion of Tories concerned about the route of the planned high speed rail line. But the final straw that saw him stripped of his prominent role was his remarks about Mrs Miller.

On the day Willenhall-born Mrs Miller finally bowed to public and political pressure to go over her expenses claims, Mr Fabricant said on Twitter that it was 'about time'.

And when the party asked him if he'd stand aside for that, he stood his ground. Resignation, Fabbo says, would imply he thought he'd done something wrong. And he doesn't think he has.

His more long-term disagreement with his party leaders, over HS2, is not unique to the MP. Both Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council are formally opposed to the line and both are controlled by the Tories.

The Fabricant affair is actually a far more troubling one for the Tories than the Maria Miller one. Or, at least, it ought to be.

What the party effectively says to its members, as they start campaigning for the council and European elections is this: Claim thousands of pounds more than you should have from the taxpayer for your second home and then make a 32-second perfunctory apology for your attitude and you'll have the full backing of your leader.

But speak your mind as well as the views of the majority of the country and your constituents on a matter of trust and integrity in politics as well as a hugely costly and controversial piece of infrastructure and you're sacked.

Ed Miliband is still adamant that the country is in a 'cost of living crisis'. His solution is to promise to devolve £20 billion of taxpayers' money held in Whitehall to city and county regions. This means eventual investment in infrastructure and skills, eventually meaning more businesses create jobs, eventually meaning people have more money to spend.

Meanwhile, on the way back to the office from Birmingham, where Mr Miliband made that announcement, a lady on the Midland Metro grumbled at the £5.70 cost of her return ticket.

She hadn't had the benefit of sitting and listening to Ed Miliband speak at length about the 'cost of living crisis' before he was chauffeured away in a Land Rover.



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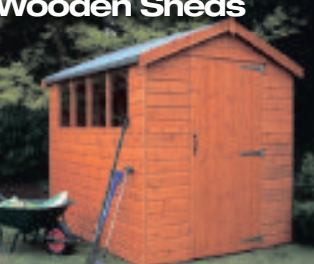
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Low turnouts due to archaic voting

WHY do boffins bang on about low 'turnouts' at elections, as low as 15 to 20 per cent in some areas? They know why, but cannot change the system.

We have an outdated system of electing a party to govern this country. Yet when it comes to passing laws, it seems minority sections of the public, have their way, mostly under the EU Human Rights Act.

Where are my human rights and democracy to vote for any party I choose? I have no choice! Only the parties that 'put up', in my constituency. Add to that broken mani-

festos promises, i.e. the last government coalition, where only one law can be passed, leaving the weaker party to renege on their manifesto promises. Is it any wonder voters boycott elections?

This government admits two heads are better than one. So why not go the whole hog and move to proportional representation? To the lay person that means that every party who attains a certain number of votes cast in an election will win one seat in Parliament. That is democracy.

A PARKER, Willenhall

Anger over pensions

ON reading 'Losing out on pension', Thursday March 27, I too, as do a lot of my friends, feel as aggrieved as P Clarke.

I was 60 last August and had to wait for my pension until I was 62 and a half years. But in my birthday cards was a shoddy, photocopied letter to say that as I was born after April, I now have to wait for my pension until 65!

As I was born four months later I now have to wait another two and a half years on the top! I thought this was a joke and wrote to David Cameron who does what he does best, and shoved it off to a jobsworth in pensions. They wrote a nice patronising letter saying we are not automatically entitled to a 'benefit', I don't call having already done 44 years work for this fast crumbling country a 'benefit'.

E RILEY, Willenhall

Teachers let down their pupils

IT is fine for teachers to go on strike for a day, their spokesperson stating that it will not affect the children's learning. But if a parent keeps their child at home for one day, they will be fined £30 per child, by law.

In my view schools of striking teachers should be forced to pay every pupil's parent £30 for every child to cover some of the cost for childminders. Working families cannot just take a day off at the drop of a hat.

Policemen and women, unhappy with their lot cannot go on strike, instead they choose to change their vocation, I suggest teachers do the same. The teaching profession are very well remunerated, have generous holidays and in modern times, training days (for what I do not know, either you can do the job or not), and a public sector pension, higher than any private one.

If you are not happy in your profession, change it; see if you can better the pay, holidays and pensions teachers get - I doubt it.

A PARKER, Willenhall

LETTERS to the Editor	
POST	E-MAIL
Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES	Walsall.chron @expressandstar.co.uk
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.	

Bonkers Britain funding partisans

WE have an Ethiopian who has been granted legal aid in the UK, so that he can sue Great Britain for giving foreign aid money to Ethiopia, which has been used by the extremist government for the wrong reasons.

They sent soldiers to his village and threw the people out, some men were killed and women raped, it is all very bad, but why should the British taxpayer have to pay for his legal aid? It is nothing to do with the UK and who are these generous judges who grant this?

Almost everyone in this country knows and protests about our government's throwing money at almost every country in the world, which is then used for the wrong reasons.

Now we have a known terror suspect who trained 7/7 terrorists opening a primary school; has this government gone mad! Why hasn't he been kicked out or are they knuckling under to this European human rights rubbish?

The UK is a dumping ground for the world's criminals and this government should be protecting us and getting rid of them and ignoring the EU. It is reported that a school in the UK has children speaking about 50 different languages and that the authorities are going to teach English as a second language!

This is Great Britain, and the English language should be taught first to all.

B J SMITH

GP system not working

I HAVE just experienced everything that is wrong with the local GP service. I went to make an appointment over a skin complaint to be told unless it's an emergency there was no available space for two weeks.

When I complained about the delay the person on the front desk suddenly became a medical expert and I was told to either phone every day to see if there was a cancellation or go to a walk-in centre. All of a sudden I can see why accident and emergency are flooded with people with none emergencies.

W LOCKLEY, Willenhall

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Gramophone stolen from LP music store



Owner of LP's Paradise Lisa Powell in her Victorian Arcade shop after the family came and took the gramophone

A GRAMOPHONE has been stolen from a specialist music store that opened less than a year ago.

The one-year-old HMV reproduction instrument worth £75 was taken from LP's Paradise in Victorian Arcade, Walsall.

A man and a woman aged in their 40s and 50s entered the store and distracted manager Lisa Powell while a younger man, believed to be their son, stole the record player.

Miss Powell said: "I was in the

shop on my own because my mum had popped out and the man and the woman surrounded me at the till and began talking really loudly blocking my view.

"I thought it would be wise to stay by the till because we have a lot of our expensive items around that part of the shop but I saw the couple's son put his coat over the gramophone and take it outside.

"I confronted his parents who denied all knowledge and said they didn't even have a son.

"The record player isn't even that expensive so I can't see why they



The gramophone, before the theft

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Murder victim's widow in appeal to find killers

TAKEAWAY driver Yasar Abbas never got to meet his youngest child.

His wife was pregnant when he was murdered after being lured to an address in Alumwell, Walsall and pounced on by masked ambushers last year.

The 28-year-old died from head injuries inflicted by a 'heavy bladed weapon'. His grieving widow and detectives have this week renewed their appeal for information to try to bring his killers to justice. Mr Abbas was attacked at around 12.20am on April 13 last year where he was lured with a bogus takeaway order.

Mr Abbas's wife Shabnam Bi was expecting a child at the time of his death. The baby boy, Mohammed, was born on May 2 last year just hours after his father's funeral. Tragically, his brother Daniel, aged four, still asks his heartbroken mum when his daddy will be coming home. Nine people have been arrested in the past 12 months and all remain on police bail.

Mr Abbas was attacked while delivering a Chinese takeaway in Madison Avenue – an address believed to have been given by the killers who had planned to trap the 28-year-old.

He died days later in Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital following three operations to try and relieve swelling around his brain.

Shabnam said: "Everyone talks about how quick a year has gone by since my husband's death but for me and our children this year has gone by so slowly and painfully. I just wish we could get some peace of mind by knowing his murderers are locked up."

Det Insp Gary Plant said: "We remain hopeful that someone will come forward with information about Mr Abbas's killers." Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Yasar Abbas, killed 12 months ago



Daniel with younger brother Mohammed

Worker ran drugs racket

A WAREHOUSE worker who launched a drug dealing racket outside his workplace has been locked up for two years and nine months.

Security staff at the TK Maxx distribution centre in Green Lane, Walsall became suspicious when CCTV kept showing Zakir Hussain going out to meet people in their car park. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Mr Graham Russell, prosecuting, said: "Most of the visitors were in motor cars. The defendant touched hands with them or made an exchange."

Cameras captured nine such meetings in 10 days and police moved in after spotted 30-year-old banned mo-

torist Hussain driving a white Ford Focus away from the distribution centre on October 11. They found eight wraps of cocaine hidden – worth £166 in a secret compartment under the steering wheel – and £138 cash.

Officers went to his home in Faringdon Street, Birchills, where a sniffer dog discovered a nail file and weighing machine with traces of cocaine behind a false panel along with over £1000, said Mr Russell.

Father of three Hussain claimed that he had been forced to sell cocaine to pay off his own drug debt. He admitted possessing cocaine with intent to supply and driving while disqualified.

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Thomas fundraising tally to be announced



Chasetown u-14 players line up for a minute's applause before the memorial game against Walsall

FAMILY and friends of a talented footballer will this weekend announce how much has been raised for a game in his memory.

The charity game was held to remember Thomas Smith, of Hednesford, who died suddenly from meningitis on his 13th birthday last May.

His former football coach Tony Hardwick at Chasetown Scholars under-14s organised the match at the Scholars Ground against Walsall counterparts to raise money for a fund set up in Thomas's name as part of charity Meningitis Now.

A presentation will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday, ahead of Chas-

town FC's game against Rainworth Miners Welfare, where the final total raised will be revealed. It is estimated to be at least £3,000.

More than 650 people packed in through the gates to watch the under-14s' memorial clash.

Applause

Thomas's parents Andy and Emma were among the crowd and a minute's applause in honour of Aston Villa fan Thomas was held before kick-off.

At the end of the match, the couple was presented with a framed shirt which had been worn by the Kingsmead Technology College student when he played for the club.

The memorial match could become an annual feature.



Young player Thomas Smith

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Museum has it all tied up for Easter



Walsall Leather Museum curator Mike Glasston, who will be overseeing various Easter activities

PUPPET shows and face painting will be on offer to help keep youngsters on their end of term holidays entertained this Easter.

Walsall Leather Museum has organised a family fun day on Easter Bank Holiday Monday.

There will be a number of activities available at the annual event as well as entertainers from 10.30am to 4pm.

Curator Mike Glasston said: "The Easter family fun day has become a regular fixture on our events calendar and over the past few years has been incredibly well-supported.

"We are looking forward to welcoming back those who have joined us for Easter celebrations in the past together with those thinking of coming for the first time."

For further information please call the museum on 01922 721153.

Remains scandal is under fire from chief

A HOSPITAL boss has admitted it is 'worrying' and 'concerning' that it took a Freedom of Information request to uncover the fact that unborn babies' remains were kept for up to four years rather than being cremated.

Richard Kirby, Walsall healthcare NHS Trust chief executive said the hospital should have noticed.

He said there were 86 occasions where remains from miscarriages or terminations were kept for longer than they should have been.

Speaking at last week's health scrutiny and performance panel meeting, he said: "There are two worrying things: the fact it happened and the distress it caused, and also the fact we did not spot this is also concerning."

"It is one of the things we have asked the independent review to look at."

Of the 86 sets of 'foetal remains', 82 were from terminations, of miscarriages in 2012 and 2013, but two were from 2011 and another two were from 2010.

The scandal has been blamed on an administrative error. Atlast Wednesday's meeting, Mr Kirby explained that forms al-

lowing for the remains to be cremated had not been signed by a clinician to say there had never been any sign of life, as they should have been.

He added: "Clearly this is something that should not have happened and part of the response already has been to make an, I hope sincere, apology to anybody who has been affected by this. It will have caused distress to a number of people and I am genuinely sorry for that."

Around 700 foetal remains are kept at Walsall Manor every year until the appropriate paperwork has been completed. They are usually stored in the hospital's mortuary for between one and three months, before they can be cremated.

by Will Ackermann

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"It's been a really positive year with the company being voted the most loved fireplace company in the UK via the best of website, were really pleased with the award and could not have won it without all the positive feedback of our customers" states Dan.

The award was given out at the Mayor's Parlour in Walsall back in March

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bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required. In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase a fire with a suite. We will be carrying out one of our biggest sales yet! On Good Friday 18th, Saturday 19th April and Monday 21st April where we will be offering some amazing deals. "We feel Easter is an opportunity for families to get out" states Dan "and with this in mind we wanted to offer our customers something special and decided for this weekend only to offer 50% off any fire when purchased with one of our quality suites."

"The free fitting has proven to be very popular" adds Matt. "We now have a qualified Gas safe and Hetas accredited team of engineers who are employed by the company and our customers can therefore be confident that all work carried out is completed to the relevant industry standards. Matt comments "Most fireplace showrooms in the market will offer a card from a third party installer, well that's where we differ as all our works are carried out and guaranteed by the company therefore giving you added satisfaction and piece of mind."

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Members at a gentleman's evening, from the 1960s, held at the George Hotel in Wal-



50 years ago, ladies celebrated the group's 30th milestone



A cheese and wine party held by the group in 1964

The years keep turning as Inner Wheel marks 80th anniversary

THERE have been coach outings, luncheon clubs, cheese and wine evenings and Valentine's Day dances. The fashions may have changed for the ladies of Walsall Inner Wheel, but they are showing the same amount of commitment to fundraising for worthy causes today, as when the club first started up 80 years ago.

Although numbers have dwindled over the decades due to changes in lifestyle, there are still a hardy group of almost 20 women committed to supporting others.

The International Inner Wheel organisation operates across the globe with the Walsall group offering help to some of the bigger charities such as WaterAid and Polio Plus.

Locally it supports the likes of good causes such as the Salvation Army and

MEMORY LANE by Craig Hughes

Glebe Centre in Caldmore, helping to collect around £20,000 a year for all sorts of organisations.

It was formed in Walsall in 1934 and to mark its 80th year a lunch celebration was organised at the Fairlawns in Little Aston Road, Aldridge.

It was attended by more than 120 people including members of other Inner Wheel groups, Rotary Club members and the head of the Inner Wheel Association.

Despite changing times the Walsall branch is continuing to offer its service organising the likes of film shows and coffee morning to raise funds for charities.

Elizabeth Vodden has been involved with the Inner Wheel, for more than 30 years and is a past president.

The 80 year-old, from Walsall, said: "The people in the group are very committed, although the numbers have dropped from 70 to about 19 over the years.

"It has been a gradual decline because this is so different to what it was when the club was formed in 1934.

"In those days people who were interested in fundraising took afternoon tea and didn't have any job commitments.

"Now it is very unusual to find a person who was the average age for Inner Wheel in those days as women in their mid 30s and 40s now have a job.

"We are recruiting a few members but even members we recruit are not in that age group, they are usually retired.

"We are a very friendly club and people who join make lasting friendships."

For many of the longstanding members it is still a joy to be part of the Walsall Inner Wheel.

Current president Mollie Prichards, who is 83, from Walsall, has been a member for 36 years.

She has become a more active member in recent years.

She said: "There is friendship, the togetherness of being a service to the community.

"For myself being the president it is being able to suggest things to do for charity.

"It is vital to keep the Inner Wheel going. "Any service in the community is vital to us and to have fun doing it, that is what keeps us going."

Barbara Cattell, 80, now of Burntwood, has been involved with the group for almost two decades.

Privilege

She said: "We are like-minded in that we want to raise money for the community.

"I have met some nice people."

Secretary Helen Murray, 63, from Walsall, added: "It has been fun, it really has, it is a privilege to be a member."

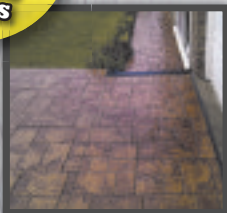
The Walsall Inner Wheel meets at United Reformed Church, Broadway, once a month on a Tuesday.

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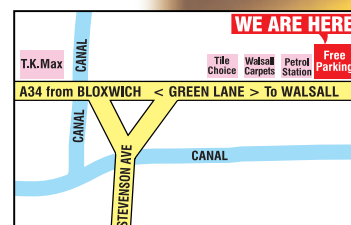
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Top six designs flying high for flag deadline

A TOWN is a step closer to having its own flag after the best six designs in a contest were revealed.

Almost 70 entries were received by the organisers of the Flying the Flag for Willenhall contest.

A panel of judges has picked the best six and it is now over to the public to cast their vote on their favourite. The winning flag will be officially registered with the Flag Institute and flown at events to celebrate Willenhall.

Community website willenhallwe.co.uk and shopping giant Poundland launched the competition in February. Competition organiser Kalie Plant said: "The judges were very impressed by all the entries. They were all brilliant designs. Now it's over to the public. It's up to them to vote on their favourite."

Carnival

Entries came from both adults and youngsters. The judging panel comprised representatives from Poundland, Willenhall History Society, Walsall Local History Centre, WH Tildesley, Willenhall Town FC and councillors. The winner will be revealed at Willenhall Carnival on June 14.

Judge Philip Tibbetts from the Flag Institute, said: "On behalf of the Flag Institute I have to commend the Willenhall flag competition for the passionate and dedicated way in which it has been run. The proof of the quality of this competition has shown in the finalists themselves which would all make bold and attractive flags."

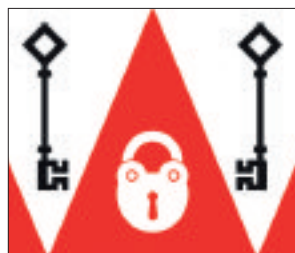
Poundland will pay for the manufacture of the winning flag. People can vote at the willenhall laywe website.



Royal blue dominates this design



A striking design with two keys



Locks again, in red, white and black



Part of another design with two keys



Blue and red, with locks and keys



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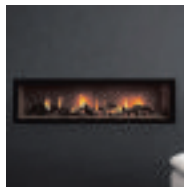
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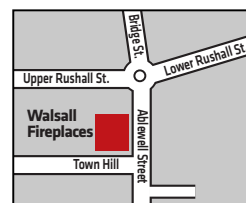
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Minister declares war on borough failing schools

FAILING schools will not be tolerated, a Government chief declared as he visited Walsall, where seven have been placed in special measures in recent months.

But Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock insisted the borough's schools can improve 'with the right leadership and management' - and held up Walsall College as a 'shining example'.

Mr Hancock was visiting the college to mark the first anniversary of its job shop, which helps people find apprenticeships and work. He spoke to staff and some of the more than 600 apprentices that have found full-time work in the last 12 months - but also addressed the problems faced by schools across the borough.

Seven schools have been rated inadequate and have been placed in special measures and Mr Hancock said the Government 'holds no truck with poor quality provision in schools and colleges'.

He said: "While we celebrate outstanding education like I have seen at Walsall College, we are also taking tough action where schools fail their pupils."

But he added: "I'm certain, that with strength of leadership and high expectations for all standards, and with a clear plan, that any education area can turn itself around. Even in the toughest parts of London that had some of the worst standards of education, it has been turned around."

The visit came just hours after Mr Hancock had unveiled new legislation requiring primary and secondary



Apprentice, Laura Farmer, aged 18, from Sheffield, Deputy Principal, Fazal Dad and apprentice Tom Bell, also 18, from Great Bar, with Mr Hancock schools to work with colleges and businesses to help pupils' career prospects. He said he wants teachers to focus less on getting teenagers into university - and instead offer them apprenticeships as a realistic alternative. Since the jobshop's launch, 642 apprentices have found jobs and nearly

300 jobseekers have been given training. The college's assistant principal for commercial development, James Norris, said: "We were honoured to meet Mr Hancock and tell him about the hundreds of people, many of them students, we are helping to find jobs and apprenticeships."

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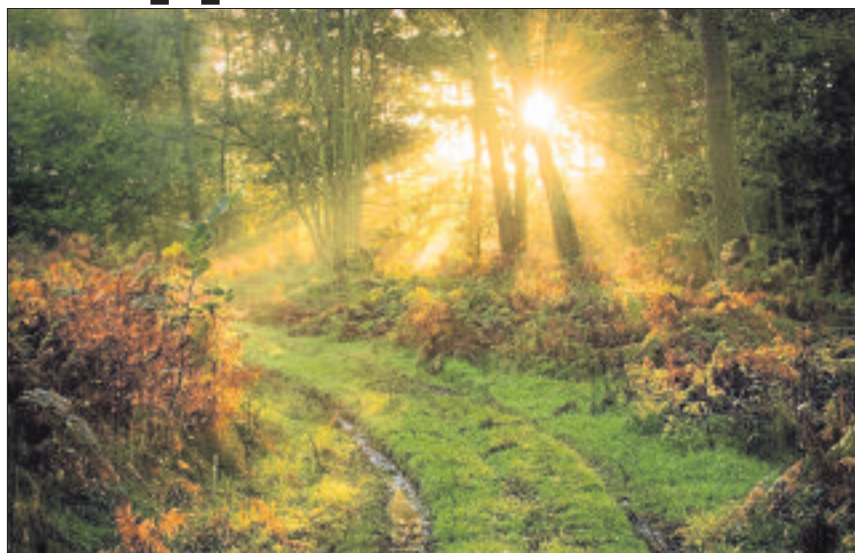
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Judges see the light as snapper wins contest



The stunning landscape picture captured on Cannock Chase that earned Graham Colling first prize

A **KEEN** photographer has earned a five-day trip of a lifetime after his stunning shot of Cannock Chase won a top photography contest.

Graham Colling's shot of Cannock Chase had already put him on the shortlist for the international Velux Lovers of Light competition.

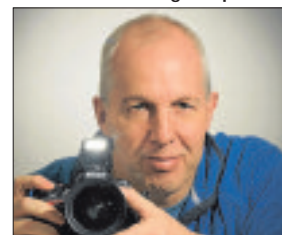
Now, the landscape, captured at Newlands Wood, between Huntington and Penkridge, has earned him first prize ahead of 15,000 entries.

The 53-year-old environmental of-

ficer from Walsall said: "I'm absolutely shocked. When I look at the standard of the other finalists, I can't believe they've chosen mine over theirs."

Mr Colling, who has twice been commended, in landscape photography contests, added: "Quite apart from anything else I'm delighted to have put the beauty of South Staffordshire on the map."

He has won a five-day trip to the island of Svalbard, off the north Norway coast for the chance to capture an image of the midnight sun. He said: "To go there is an amazing prize. It's great to be able to cross it off my list."



Winning snapper Graham Colling

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Family celebrates as Gwyn turns 102



Gwyn Williams marks 102 years with staff, left, Pat Houslin, Donna Tittley, Julie Willis, Kamaljit Puralwal and Susan Powis. A WAR veteran has celebrated his 102nd birthday at a care home in Great Wyrley.

Gwyn Williams fought during the Second World War and trained troops in Burma. Born in Maesteg in South Wales, he moved to Great Wyrley after wife Maggie died in 1994.

Mr Williams was awarded three medals for fighting during the war and was even a PE teacher for troops based in Burma. He ran a newsagents in his hometown before he retired and moved to Lake View Nursing Home in Stafford Road, Newtown, four weeks ago.

Mr Williams has always celebrated his birthday on March 17 but it wasn't until he was 60 he found out his birth was registered by his grandmother on March 24. He now has two celebrations and marked his most recent milestone with his son John, daughter June, his three grandchildren and great granddaughter.

Nurse Pat Houslyn said: "He came to this part of the world after the death of his late wife Maggie because his children already lived here and he has never left."

"We had a lovely party with cake and Gwyn told all of his family to bring him a beer. He said the secret to his long and happy life was drinking coffee with a drop of Baileys."

Deal over parking is planned in homes bid

AN end to parking chaos outside two schools and a leisure centre may be close in a deal to include an overspill car park as part of a housing plan.

The plot opposite Cheslyn Hay Sport & Community High School and the neighbouring primary is one of several being considered for new homes by South Staffordshire Council.

The authority is undertaking a district-wide public consultation to identify possible sites for housing over the next 14 years.

The proposed development in Saredon Road, also close to Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre, includes a 50-space car park for the use of parents and centre users.

Landowner Geoff Brown has been liaising with council bosses and school staff over a solution to the problem of congestion at the start and end of the school day.

Mr Brown, a retired chartered town planner, has been farming the land for 12 years but has decided to put some of it forward in response to the council's call for possible housing sites. He said: "At the moment,

By Marion Brennan

this is just one of several possible sites but there's no question that it is unique in being able to resolve this parking problem. The opportunity is here if people want it.

"I've been a town planner for over 40 years so I am naturally concerned about how any development might affect local residents. There is clearly an overwhelming need for extra car parking here, not just for greater parental convenience but more importantly, for child safety. The present car parking arrangements are totally inadequate."

To support the proposal or ask any questions contact Mr Brown by email at thewelschplanner@hotmail.com

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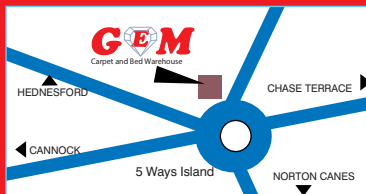
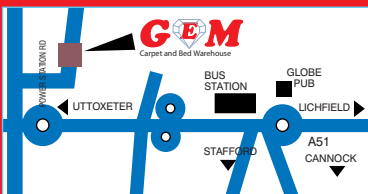
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Bear facts about teddy collection

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed all member, two visitors and speaker David Chatterly, to the April 3 meeting.

The business agenda was read, approved and signed. Thank you messages were read out from Val, Nadine and Iris, who are recovering from illness.

Arrangements for the trip to Ros Labels Fashion Outlet and then on to Symonds Yat Leisure Park in Herefordshire have been finalised and it will take place on September 11.

David Chatterly introduced himself as an arctophile, a collector of teddy bears.

He gave a comprehensive history of these toys emphasising the changing characteristics, material from mohair to nylon, sawdust stuffing to kapok, static to moving limbs, wooden eyes to glass and differing facial expressions.

He demonstrated these changes by showing several bears from his large collection. They included Steiff, Chad Valley, Merry Thought and Pixie Toys which were made in Stourbridge.

The final teddy bear was about two inches long, and lived in a brass tin case also containing a union flag and buttons. These were made in 1914 and given by wives and sweethearts to their men going to war.

Sylvia Fletcher gave the vote of thanks and two ladies won a raffle prize.

Guided tour follows handover of cheque



Guild members with Sue Beesley and Amanda Cox at Acorns Hospice

THREE members from Great Wyrley TG visited Acorns Hospice in Walsall to present a cheque for £200. The money had been collected by the guild in donations in lieu of Christmas Cards.

The ladies were given refreshments and a guided tour of the centre by community

GREAT WYRLEY TG

team worker Sue Beesley and then were introduced to Amanda Cox who is a fund-raising administrator. Bette Webb, chairman of the TG then presented the cheque to Amanda.

Members are given food for thought with an A-Z of trivia

WALSALL CENTRAL

ON March 27, 18 members of WCTWG attended the Federation South Staffs Branch Annual Dinner at the Masonic Hall, Aldridge.

CTWG's 18 ladies proved to be the highest representation, percentage wise, of all branches attending.

The chairman of the South Staffs Federation, Pat White, a member of WCTWG, chaired the evening and announced that an invitation had been

sent to Sue Smith, the former national chairman, who was unable to attend as she was actually at Buckingham Palace receiving an OBE for her services to TWG.

Following the meal great entertainment was provided by comedian Doug Parker.

Chairman Pat Jones opened the April 1 meeting and following business mat-

ters, introduced the speaker for the evening, Jane Phillips. Jane is presently teaching a modern form of home economics, including cooking, at Queen Mary's Grammar School for Boys.

Jean's subject was A-Z of food trivia and among the many facts learned was the origin of the simple sandwich, the anti-bacterial qualities of honey and that teabags are not available to buy in Japan.

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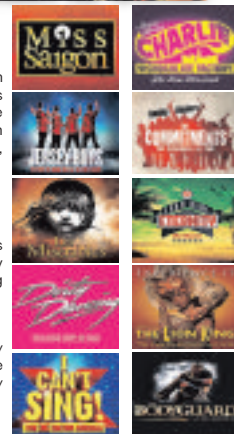
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Pupils branch out



Rushall Primary School pupils plant new trees in their woodland area, to learn more about nature

PUPILS have been creating a new woodland area and outdoor classroom at their school in Walsall by planting hundreds of trees to inspire them to get closer to nature.

Youngsters at Rushall Primary School, in Pelsall Lane, have planted more than 400 saplings on their school field after they were handed the trees by UK woodland conservation charity, The Woodland Trust.

Gemma Prestage, teaching assistant at Rushall Primary, said: "They were offering tree packs to schools and communities. We got selected to receive 420 British trees. We have a small forest area but we have extended it. Every child in the school has planted at least one tree.

"They are little saplings so they will take time to grow. It's like an outdoor classroom. Eventually, we are going to be taking groups of children out there. "We will get them dealing with nature. We also have hand tools. They can be used for coppicing the trees and sawing them down to more workable sizes of wood."

Memories sought of town shop for replica

STAFF at the Black Country Living Museum are piecing together the history of a long-standing greengrocer's.

They are appealing for people to come forward with their memories. One of the buildings at the canalside village will be transformed into the shop once housed at 39 Lower Lichfield Street, Willenhall from 1916 to 1932.

The museum is appealing for information so it can produce a replica which is as authentic as possible.

The research done by the museum's collections team to date shows that Gertrude Adey, née Illidge, is listed in the Kelly's Trade Directory as a greengrocer from the stated address.

Information

She married William Adey in around 1900 and had two children - William A Adey, born circa 1901, and Gertrude M Adey, born circa 1903. The building, being a small family business, may have traded under the name of Adey. Staff are hoping to get more information about the Adey family, Lower Lichfield Street or the surrounding areas during the early 20th century. They are also keen to track down anybody with a connection to the Adey family.

by Heather Large

They are also appealing for anyone with photographs of Willenhall or other Black Country greengrocer shops, pre-1960, to come forward. Staff are also keen to hear people's recollections of the shop or any similar ones in the Black Country.

People are asked to get in touch by email info@bcm.com or call 0121 557 9643 by April 28. They should include their name, email, telephone number and a few words outlining their information and the museum will then get in touch.

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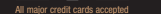
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Revamped pub back open for customers

A PUB in Pelsall has reopened following an extensive modernisation programme. The Fingerpost pub at Yorks Bridge, Norton Road, has been given a new lease of life following an investment of £50,000.

New licensee Darren Bee and owners Punch Taverns have funded the work after it was closed for two weeks.

The Fingerpost is on the banks of the Wyrley and Essington Canal near Pelsall Common.

Licensee Mr Bee, who also runs the Navigation Inn, Fiddesley, near Willenhall, said: "This is my second Punch pub and I instantly saw the potential of the Fingerpost."

"The pub looks fantastic, it has been modernised with stylish décor and been re-invigorated with fresh neutral colours."

"We have created a defined dining area with separate bar area. Customers can also enjoy the views while eating and drinking on our decking area."

"Building on the brand and reputation from the Navigation, we will be introducing Bert's Bistro, which will include a new food

Focus on Pelsall

menu featuring home-made dishes with everything from burgers to lobsters.

"We have also installed three real ales and plan to rotate these depending on customer demand."

"The investment has given us the new facilities to allow us to cater for families, strengthen our food offer, and ultimately bring the pub back to the community with something for everyone. The investment has also created several new jobs."

"The Manager, Steve Woodhams, has some great plans to deliver a fantastic customer experience."

Town queen sought



Jessica Jones, seen when she was carnival queen, and who is now a carnival committee member

A TOWN is on the lookout for a new leading lady to take on the role of carnival queen. Louise Richards will be stepping down as Bloxwich Carnival Queen after a year.

A selection evening to crown a new queen and find a new princess and rosebud is being held on April 24 at Bloxwich Library from 6pm. This year's carnival is on August 2. Budding carnival queens need to be aged 16 to 24, while princesses should be aged 11 to 15 and rosebuds seven to 10.

Application forms are available from Bloxwich Library in Elmore Row and Sweet & Fancy in Park Road. For details call past queen and carnival committee member Jessica Jones on 07957 190221.

Charity dance boost

A CHARITY ballroom dancing night is being held to raise money for a hospital kidney unit.

Members of Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee host the event on April 26 starting at 8pm at Wombourne Civic Centre, in Gravel Hill. For tickets, £4, call 01902 893872 or 01922 683159. Proceeds will go to Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

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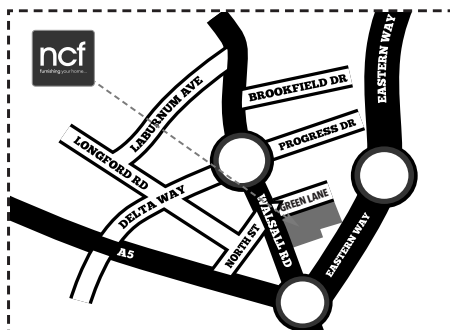


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Real-life drama takes flight at holiday park



Monty the osprey takes a view of the five-star Morben Isaf holiday park. Courtesy Montgomery Wildlife Trust

HOLIDAY home owners on a five-star Park in mid-Wales have their own soap opera developing on their doorstep as the battle for nesting rights at the Dyfi Osprey Project heats up.

Families have been eagerly awaiting for the return of osprey pair Monty and Glesni. However, events took an unexpected turn as new arrivals Dai Dot and Blue 24 recently hijacked the nest.

Sarah Lewis, who along with husband Ben, manage Morben Isaf Holiday Home Park said: "Many of our

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

homeowners love nature and have been waiting for Monty's return, but now there is much speculation as to what is going to happen, it is very exciting!"

She added: "We are lucky to have private footpath access to the Dyfi Osprey Project, especially since it's had so much coverage on the BBC Springwatch programme."

"Everyone on the park is optimistic about being so close to another season of osprey drama and the new Cors Dyfi Observatory. Who needs TV when there is real-life drama right on our doorstep?"

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Pop Goes BBC Two (BBC2, 10.30pm)

Just because BBC Two is celebrating its 50th birthday this weekend, doesn't mean it isn't still down with the kids. In fact, as this one-off special reminds us, the channel has always been at the cutting edge when it comes to music – while BBC One was bringing us Top of the Pops, BBC Two was home to live performances and album tracks on the Old Grey Whistle Test. This programme looks at 50 of the most iconic moments to emerge from the channel's musical output, from John Lennon reciting poetry with Dudley Moore on Not Only But Also, to Beyoncé headlining at Glastonbury in 2011. Other highlights include Joy Division's final TV performance, and the Stone Roses being hit with a mid-song power shortage on The Late Show.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Formula 1 – Chinese Grand Prix: Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Film: Shrek Forever After. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers.

6.40 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a medical-themed edition, featuring past and present Casualty and Holly City stars Sunetra Sarker, Paul Bradley, Ian Kelsey and Ian Bleasdale, as well as Duncan Preston and Nichola McAuliffe, from 1990s sitcom Surgical Spirit. They are joined by George Layton, who appeared in the 1969 Doctor in the House and its sequels, and a woman who really does know a thing or two about medicine – The One Show's resident GP Dr Sarah Jarvis. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst?

7.50 **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Kate Garraway.

8.40 **Casualty.** Fletch attempts to build bridges between a feuding father and son following a car crash. Cal tries to impress Lily, and Jeff agrees to cover for Ash's daughter, Ella.

9.30 **The Guess List.** Julian Clary, Melanie C, Larry Lamb, Deborah Meaden and David Haye help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions. Game show, hosted by Rob Brydon.

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Sunderland at Stamford Bridge and Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham; National Lottery Update.

11.50 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Sword of Sherwood Forest. (1960) **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off Easter Masterclass. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further coverage of the opening session on day one. **2.30** Film: Henry VIII and His Six Wives. (1972) Historical drama, starring Keith Michell. **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **5.45** Easter from King's.

7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Coverage of the concluding session on the opening day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where Ronnie O'Sullivan and Ali Carter are the seeds in first-round action. The Rocket has won the title for the past two years and his match is the first to reach a conclusion, with the first player to reach 10 frames progressing to the second round. Carter gets his fixture under way against a qualifier, and he has pedigree here having twice reached the final, only to lose to O'Sullivan on both occasions. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with commentary by Ken Doherty, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry.

8.00 **University Challenge: The Story So Far.** Documentary charting the history of the student quiz show. With contributions by former contestants including Stephen Fry and hosts Bamber Gascoigne and Jeremy Paxman. (R)

9.00 **University Challenge: Champion of Champions.** Magdalen College, Oxford, takes on Manchester in this special edition of the student quiz, with each institution having won the series title four times during the show's history.

9.30 **Messiah at the Foundling Hospital.** Amanda Vickery and Tom Service present a docu-drama telling the story of the performance of Handel's Messiah at London's Foundling Hospital in 1750.

10.30 **Pop Goes BBC Two.** Exploration of popular music since 1964 through a selection of 50 moments from BBC Two.

12.00 Snooker: The World Championship. **12.50** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.10** Film: Never Say Never Again. (1983) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. **2.40** Film: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 **You've Been Framed! & Famous.** Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical mishaps filmed by viewers on their webcams, mobile phones and camcorders, featuring a range of celebrity lookalikes, as Simon Cowell takes to the trampoline, Kate Middleton unveils her new workout routine and Ryan Giggs struggles to atone for his mistakes. (R)

7.00 **Britain's Got Talent.** The annual search for a star continues as more auditions try to win over Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon with their talents. The acts all have their eyes on the prize of £250,000 and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but first they must secure a place in the live semi-finals. Will any of them be good enough for the judges' new golden buzzers? Ant and Dec host.

8.20 **Amazing Greys.** Three young contenders take on the Amazing Greys, who include former Wimbledon finalist Christine Truman and Mastermind winner Liz Horrocks. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Ripston host.

9.20 **Law & Order: UK.** A blood-spattered hotel room and a stolen credit card lead detectives Ronnie and Joe to a privileged young woman whose newborn baby has gone missing. (R)

10.15 **The Americans.** Elizabeth must work with Nicaraguan spy Lucia to gain access to a congressman's office, while Oleg meets Stan in an isolated warehouse and gives him an ultimatum.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 **Through the Keyhole.** Catherine Tyldesley and Terry Wogan join Dave Berry on the panel. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Dinner Date. Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Trans World Sport. **7.30** Film Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** How I Met Your Mother. **11.20** How I Met Your Mother. **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 **Come Dine with Me.** Corset-maker Serine Daou hosts the final night of the competition in Reading, Berkshire, hoping to impress with her burlesque-themed party and gourmet burgers. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Lent Diaries.

7.05 **Grand Designs.** Colin Mackinnon and his partner Marta Brongos take on an ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, designed by one of Scotland's most eminent architects and inspired by aircraft hangars. They have to contend with violent rain, snow, 100mph winds and the worst storms for a century, and the couple have to draw on their reserves of mental energy, as what was supposed to be a 12-month build heads into a third year. (R)

8.05 **Hostages.** The day of the president's surgery arrives and as Blair's squad moves into position, the first lady finally sees through Ellen's deception and demands the truth. Last in the series.

9.00 **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson.

10.50 **Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone.** (2013) Premiere. Documentary in which film-maker Shane Meadows follows the band in rehearsals for their 2012 reunion concerts.

12.50 **Film: Trainspotting.** (1996) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Super Scrappers' Challenge. (R) **5.25** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.40** Goodwood 72nd Members' Meeting.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.40** Beware! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) **11.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.40** Film: Murder at the Gallop. (1963) Miss Marple mystery, starring Margaret Rutherford. **2.20** Film: Barabaras. (1961) Biblical drama, starring Anthony Quinn.

5.00 **Film: Columbo: Ashes to Ashes.** (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGowan.

6.40 **Longmire.** Walt fears drug producers are about to start a turf war in the region where a fisherman finds the bodies of a dealer and a hitman for a Mexican cartel in a remote creek.

7.30 **NCIS.** Gibbs and his team investigate the bizarre deaths of a marine and two of his friends at a stag party. Elsewhere, Gibbs tries to persuade Vance to allow Ziva back into the NCIS. However, she must first pass a barrage of psychological evaluations. Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette star. (R)

8.25 **NCIS.** A blogger who accused the NCIS of a cover-up is found dead, and Gibbs and his team are forced to reopen a closed case to find the killer. However, state police suspect the special agents may have been involved in the murder and take control of the investigation. (R)

9.20 **5 News Weekend.**

9.25 **Britain's Favourite Detectives.** A countdown of the nation's favourite crime solvers as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll. The list features those who work best alone such as Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot and Lt Columbo, as well as duos including Morse and Lewis and Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman's portrayal of Holmes and Watson in Sherlock. There are clips of the TV detective debuts of Pierce Brosnan (Remington Steele) and Bruce Willis (Moonlighting), alongside interviews with Alan Davies (Jonathan Creek), Felicity Kendal (Rosemary & Thyme), Prime Suspect creator Lynda La Plante, Phil Davis (Whitechapel) and Una Stubbs (Sherlock).

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.15** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show.

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear Bolivia Special **8.20** Film: Toy Story 2 (1999) **9.50** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.35** Family Guy **11.30** Film: Youth in Revolt (2009) **1.55** In the Flesh **3.50** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Wild Wales **8.00** Chemistry – A Volatile History **9.00** Film: Downfall (2004) **11.25** Pavlopetri – The City Beneath the Waves **12.25** The Sky at Night **12.55** Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **1.55** Chemistry – A Volatile History **2.55** Wild Wales **3.55** Close

ITV2

12.15 Britain's Got Talent **1.35** Britain's Got More Talent **2.35** Totally You've Been Framed! **3.20** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **3.30** Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005) **5.50** Film: Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **8.20** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** Totally You've Been Framed! **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Dads **2.40** James Arthur: The Hot Desk

ITV3

11.35 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **1.25** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **3.15** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.05** Foy's War **7.10** Rosemary & Thyme **8.20** Doc Martin **9.20** Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey **10.20** Cold Blood **11.50** Rosemary & Thyme **12.55** Murder, She Wrote **1.55** Judge Judy **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Royal Challengers Bangalore v Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders v Delhi Daredevils. **8.00** Ali: Still the Greatest **9.00** Film: The Boat That Rocked (2009) **11.45** Film: Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983) **2.00** Benidorm **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.00 The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Rude (ish) Tube **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Snakes on a Plane (2006) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Party House **1.10** 2 Broke Girls **1.40** Youngers **2.35** The Cleveland Show

Film4

11.00 Anastasia (1997) **1.00** The Spy Next Door (2010) **2.50** Hope Floats (1998) **5.00** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **6.40** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Goon (2011) **12.40** 30 Days of Night (2007) **2.50** A Letter to Elia **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Billy Bob Thornton

Fargo (Channel 4, 9pm)
What made the 1996 Oscar-winning movie Fargo such a success? The script and direction by the Coen Brothers, the plot, and the outstanding cast all deserve their due, but for some viewers, the snowy Minnesota setting, and the contrast between the homespun friendliness and sing-song accents of the locals and the unfolding horror, was also a big part of the appeal. And it's that ambience which carries over into this new TV series, which keeps the location and mix of humour and murder, but introduces a new story and a fresh set of characters – played by an equally impressive cast. Billy Bob Thornton stars as Lorne Malvo, a malicious drifter, who enters the life of smalltown insurance man Lester Nygaard (Martin Freeman).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Easter Worship from Leicester. **11.00** Uribi et Orbi. **11.35** Flog It! (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **2.30** Formula 1 – Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **4.30** Escape to the Country. **5.00** Lifestile. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
7.00 **Countryfile**. The team heads to the Isles of Scilly, where Ellie Harrison finds out about the problem of rats and the devastating effect they have on the local seabird population. She also visits the privately owned island of Trescow, to hear how a programme to eradicate the rodents affects the recently imported red squirrels. Matt Baker goes flying with ducklings – boarding a plane with 50 birds destined for a duck farm on Scilly – and back on the mainland, Tom Heap looks at the dangers involved in farming, as well as ways to make it safer, and Adam Henson visits a goat farm. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team make a return visit to Polesden Lacey near Dorking in Surrey, in search of more family treasures. Curios on show include a painting of JMW Turner's house on the banks of the Thames, a set of early board game designs and an instrument panel from a Lancaster bomber.
9.00 **The Crimson Field**. Thomas develops a system to help treat wounds, although Major Yelland is dismissive of the method and begins to bully the younger surgeon. Joan reveals a secret to a patient.
10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Norwich City v Liverpool, Hull City v Arsenal and Everton v Manchester United. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the Premier League matches.
11.35 **Live at the Apollo**. Kevin Bridges hosts the stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in London, introducing routines by Phill Jupitus and Sara Pascoe. (R)
12.20 Weathernews. **12.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Countryfile. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** Film: Custer of the West. (1967) Historical biopic, starring Robert Shaw. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second session on the second day at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.
6.00 **Davis v Taylor: The '85 Black Ball Final**. Colin Murray presents a look back at the final of the 1985 World Snooker Championship between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis. The match finished after midnight, but kept an estimated 18.5 million viewers engrossed until the title was decided on the final black of the 35th frame. With contributions from Barry McGuigan, Ted Lowe, Stephen Hendry and Barry Hearn. (R)
7.00 **Morecambe & Wise in Pieces: Leading Men**. Penelope Keith presents a compilation of highlights from the comedy duo's show featuring appearances by male stars of stage and screen.
8.00 **50 Golden Years of Sport on BBC Two**. Sue Barker presents a look back at the history of sport on the channel through some of its most memorable events. With contributions by Murray Walker, Des Lynam and Ian Botham.
9.00 **All About Two**. Dara O Briain hosts a quiz celebrating 50 years of BBC Two in which teams of celebrities answer questions about the channel's programmes and stars. The panelists are Mock the Week's Hugh Dennis, Deborah Meaden of Dragons' Den, Dave Myers of the Hairy Bikers, Professor Brian Cox, Goodness Gracious Me star Meera Syal and choirmaster Gareth Malone, with Pointless co-host Richard Osman on hand to supply extra facts and figures.
10.40 **The Making of OI**. An insight into the production of the popular comedy quiz show in which host Stephen Fry awards points to contestants who provide interesting answers to his questions. (R)
11.40 **Snooker: The World Championship**. Highlights of the evening session at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, which featured the conclusion of the first-round matches.
12.30 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Film: Columbo Goes to College. (1991) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.10** The Unforgettable Yootha Joyce. (R) **1.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.40** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.55** Film: A View to a Kill. (1985) James Bond adventure.
6.20 **Regional Programme**; Weather.
6.30 **ITV News**; Weather.
6.45 **Catchphrase**. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
7.30 **Off Their Rockers**. Velma gets racy in a photo booth. Seb needs a fright to cure his hicups and Rosemary eats some funny-tasting biscuits. Hidden-camera comedy with fearless senior citizens.
8.00 **Endeavour**. As plans to build a new police station lead Morse to question his place in the force, he investigates the case of Tommy Cork, a boy from a broken home who has disappeared. Meanwhile, the body of disreputable journalist Eric Patterson has been found on railway tracks in mysterious circumstances. He was last seen embroiled in an argument with a council official about a company preparing to redevelop the site of Blenheim Vale, a disused correctional facility for boys. When a petty criminal with a connection to Blenheim absconds from an open prison, it sets off a chain reaction of events that threaten to expose horrors of the past. Did missing Tommy witness something that cost him his life? Last in the series.
10.00 **Perspectives: The Magic of Houdini with Alan Davies**. New series. The Jonathan Creek star explores the extraordinary life of escapologist Harry Houdini and takes part in a series of death-defying acts to understand what made him tick.
11.00 **ITV News**; Weather.
11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union**.
12.15 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Film: Hoot. (2006) **7.40** Film: Lassie. (2005) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** How I Met Your Mother. **3.00** How I Met Your Mother. **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.35** Channel 4 News.
6.05 **Lent Diaries**. The lives of people who worship in Britain's West African churches, the fastest-growing sector of Christianity in Britain today. Last in the series.
6.10 Film: Hog. (2011) Premiere. The Easter Bunny's son is about to take over the chocolate-delivering business, but rejects his responsibilities and heads for Hollywood to seek fame and fortune as a drummer. He makes life difficult for the directionless slacker who takes him in, but they must work together to avert a crisis on Easter Island. Part-animated comedy, with James Marsden.
8.00 **For the Love of Cars**. New series. Life on Mars star Philip Glenister and renowned car designer Ant Anstead scour barns and lock-ups across the nation on a mission to restore six classic motors to their former glory. They begin by tracking down a rare Ford Escort Mexico, and while Ant takes on the mammoth task of rebuilding the rusty vehicle, Philip explores the story behind one of the most beloved British cars ever built, meeting passionate boy racers who are preserving the Escort spirit.
9.00 **Fargo**. New series. Crime comedy-drama based on the Coen brothers' Oscar-winning 1996 film. Martin Freeman stars as small-town Minnesota insurance salesman Lester Nygaard, who is set on a path of destruction after an encounter with manipulative drifter Lorne Malvo. Colin Hanks plays single father Gus Grimly, who must choose between his own safety and his duty as a police officer when he comes face to face with a killer.
10.30 Film: Heat. (1995) A detective becomes obsessed with capturing a highly intelligent career criminal who is planning one last robbery before his retirement. Thriller, with Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.
1.35 The Good Wife. (R) **2.20** The Hotel. (R) **3.15** Secret Removers. (R) **4.10** SuperScrimers' Challenge. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Film: Thomas & Friends: King of the Railway – The Movie. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Small. **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.30** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.05** Access. (R) **11.15** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.45** Film: Eragon. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **1.40** Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) Superhero sequel, starring Tobey Maguire. **4.20** The Sound of Music Live!
7.00 **5 News Weekend**.
7.05 **Film: The Forbidden Kingdom**. (2008) Premiere. An American teenager obsessed with kung fu movies is sent back in time to ancient China, where he joins the battle to free the imprisoned Monkey King. The only problem is he has no martial arts skills of his own, and will need the assistance of two legendary warriors to become the hero he needs to be. Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li and Jackie Chan. Edited for violence and language.
9.00 **Film: Act of Valor**. (2012) Premiere. A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatical terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. Edited for language.
10.50 **Film: Punisher: War Zone**. (2008) Premiere. The ruthless vigilante faces a battle to the death with a disfigured mobster. Action thriller based on the Marvel comic-book, starring Ray Stevenson and Dominic West.
12.55 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** Britain's Crime Capitals. A look at towns and cities in the UK most affected by crime, beginning with Liverpool. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. The big day arrives. (R) **4.45** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Film: Toy Story 3 (2010) **9.35** Russell Howard's Good News **10.05** Family Guy **10.50** Sweat the Small Stuff **11.20** American Dad! **12.05** Ja'mie: Private School Girl **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News **1.30** Orphan Black **3.00** In the Flesh
BBC Four
7.00 Film: The Man in the White Suit (1951) **8.25** Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life (1950) **9.45** The Art of Tommy Cooper **10.15** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **11.45** Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness **12.45** The Wonder of Bees with Martha Kearney **1.15** Imagine – Jimi Hendrix: Hear My Train a Comin' **2.45** Jimi Hendrix: The Road to Woodstock
ITV2
12.00 You've Been Framed! Family Special **12.40** Film: Valiant (2005) **2.15** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.30** Britain's Got More Talent **6.30** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.00** Film: Quantum of Solace (2008) **11.10** Film: Hostage (2005) **1.35** Mon **2.00** The Vampire Diaries **2.40** Ke\$ha: The Hot Desk **2.50** Teleshopping
ITV3
12.15 Film: Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **2.10** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **4.00** Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00** Film: The Graduate (1967) **12.10** Cracker **1.20** Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **2.55** Movies Now **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
6.30 Police, Camera, Action! **7.00** Storage Wars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket **10.00** Film: Unleashed (2005) **12.00** Film: Village of the Damned (1995) **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.35 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Revenge **2.30** Rudelish! Tube **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Independence Day (1996) **11.00** Rude Tube: Total Stunts **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** Rules of Engagement **2.00** Rude Tube: Total Stunts **2.55** Bob's Burgers
Film4
11.00 The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **1.00** Flash Gordon (1980) **3.10** The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Layer Cake (2004) **11.05** Role Models (2008) **1.00** Underworld: Evolution (2006) **3.25** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Rocky Balboa, Channel 5, 11pm
The ageing fighter contemplates a return to the ring when a computer simulation reveals he would have defeated the current world heavyweight champion Mason "The Line" Dixon, who responds by challenging Rocky to face him for real. Boxing drama sequel, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Antonio Tarver, Geraldine Hughes, Burt Young, Milo Ventimiglia and Tony Burton. (2006)

TUESDAY
A Woman's Rage, Channel 5, 3.10pm
An obsessively jealous woman with a history of failed relationships is devastated when her boyfriend leaves her. She blames his younger sister for causing the break-up, and plans to get revenge by seducing her teenage son. Crime drama, starring Cynthia Preston, Brandy Ledford, Cameron Bancroft and Alex House. (2008)

WEDNESDAY
The Private Lives of Pippa Lee, BBC1, 11.45pm
A middle-aged woman married to a man 30 years older than her is shocked when he announces his intention to leave their New York home in favour of a retirement community. Driven to desperation by her dull new surroundings and her husband's affair with an even younger woman, she looks back on her wild youth. Drama, with Robin Wright, Alan Arkin and Winona Ryder. (2009)



Rocky Balboa, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY
Two for the Money, BBC1, 11.35pm
An American football player whose career is cut short by injury becomes the protégé of a power player in the world of sports gambling because of his knack for predicting winners. For a time the former sportsman enjoys the life of a high-roller, but when his skill begins to falter, his mentor turns on him and the pair engage in a fraught game of con and counter-con. Drama, with Al Pacino, Matthew McConaughey, Rene Russo and Armand Assante. (2005)

FRIDAY
The Bourne Ultimatum, ITV, 10.35pm
Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Paddy Considine, Scott Glenn and Albert Finney. (2007)



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Pick of the Week

Tommy finds himself caught in the middle

Could you see Shameless's Frank Gallagher as Tommy Cooper? Perhaps not, but David Threlfall has long had that charameleon-like ability to slip into any role, no matter how unlikely.

For a decade it seemed Threlfall was forever destined to play dole cheat Gallagher in Channel 4's hit drama. Thankfully over the last couple of years he has gone back to inhabiting a variety of real and fictional characters. Last year he was on top form as retired detective Len Harper in BBC drama What Remains. Now he's doing an uncanny take on Tommy Cooper in this drama paying tribute to the iconic magician and comedian who passed away 30 years ago this month.

It focuses largely on Cooper's relationships with two women – his wife Gwen (Amanda Redman) and Mary Kay (Helen McCrory), the assistant with whom he had a 17-year affair which only ended when he collapsed and died live on TV in 1984.

In the flesh, Threlfall is light years away from many of his more famous creations. There's none of the hammy am dram thespian he played in Hot Fuzz (a film he still hasn't seen), and his ability to morph into Cooper for this drama is remarkable.

"It's his story from '67 to the night he died inclusive, and I guess the back story of what he was doing publicly and some of his private life," explains David. "What's nice about it is it's a period piece, and it nods to the people of a certain age who knew Tommy Cooper and either really liked him or worshipped him because he was a completely special one-off."

At 15 stone, and standing six foot four, Cooper was a unique sight on any stage. Despite being a skilled magician, it was his failed tricks that brought the house down. But off stage, his love of booze and subsequent poor health took its toll.

David was well aware of how important it was to give a faithful performance: "People use the word 'genius' too much, but I think you can apply it to (Spike) Milligan, you can apply it to Tommy Cooper... so no pressure at all trying to portray that," he laughs. "But I had a go. So there's

bits of his life at home and what he was all about, which was wanting to make people laugh." After making this drama, Threlfall was snapped up by Oscar-winning film-maker Kevin McDonald to work on submarine salvage drama Black Sea, which is released later in the year.

"I've sort of slipped back onto the variety bandwagon if you like," explains David. "I always like, if I can and people are willing to let me have a go, be pretty varied about the kind of work I get involved with, but I'm not one of these people that say, 'Well, I'm doing this now and I've got this lined up,' and all that. There's no plans after I finish on Black Sea."

However, with a body of work including King Lear (with Laurence Olivier), and now one of the kings of British comedy, there's little chance of him settling for an early retirement just yet. "I've always been a working actor," he explains. "If a job comes up and people want me to have a go, that's what I do. "If I can have a year where I can do What Remains, then Tommy Cooper, then a sub mariner in Black Sea, that's good and I'm happy and grateful for that."



Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
24 Hours on Earth, BBC1, 7pm
Finally, the nights are getting that little bit longer, the weather is – sort of – brightening up a bit – it's the strongest hint yet that summer is well on its way. And while we maybe shouldn't get too far ahead of ourselves and start mentally packing our suitcases for our summer holiday, for the time being we're being treated to another brilliant documentary from the Beeb, about how nature and animals deal with this time of the year. It tells how the changing position of the sun in the sky affects the behaviour of animals and plants across our planet. The animals are alert; from the moment the sun rises, they're waiting, ready to take advantage of all the opportunities that come with it.

Jamaica Inn, BBC1, 9pm
It's Easter, so it should come as no surprise to find that the BBC is broadcasting a lavish costume drama. This time it's an adaptation of Daphne Du Maurier's novel Jamaica Inn, which stars former Downton Abbey resident Jessica Brown Findlay as Mary Yellan, who turns down a marriage proposal in favour of moving to Cornwall to live with her aunt Patience following her mother's death. Patience runs Jamaica Inn with her bullying husband Joss, a hard-drinking smuggler, just one of many locals who seems to live outside the law. Mary falls for his brother, Jem, but after witnessing a murder, has a tough decision to make about whether to report what she has seen.

TUESDAY
The Big Allotment Challenge, BBC2, 8pm
Last week, Fern Britton kicked off The Big Allotment Challenge by introducing the nine pairs of gardeners whose skills were about to be put to the test. One duo fell by the wayside after failing to impress during flower-arranging and jam-making tasks, so when we catch up with the gang again, only eight pairs remain. This week, they have to grow the perfect runner beans and roses, then use their produce to create summer wreaths and relishes. But who will come out smelling of, erm, roses, and who will end up in a sticky spot? We'll find out after horticultural expert Jim Butters, floral designer Jonathan Moseley and food writer Thane Prince have offered their opinions on the contestants' efforts.

New Worlds, Channel 4, 9pm
If you're basing your knowledge of Charles II on Horrible Histories (and there are definitely worse places to get your information from), you may be under the impression that he was the king who brought back partying. But as this historical drama has shown, not all of his subjects felt like celebrating under his reign. In the final episode, there's definitely a revolutionary spirit in the air in America as Ned (Joe Dempsey) returns to Hope (Alice Englert),

and tells her that he does want them to be together – but first they have to find a hiding place for Beth (Freya Mavor).

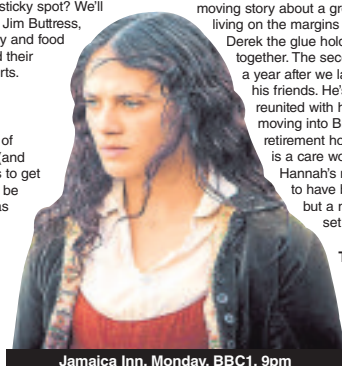
WEDNESDAY
Derek, Channel 4, 10pm
Viewers and critics were unsure of Derek when it was commissioned by Channel 4. Could Ricky Gervais, a comedian and writer who had made his name with The Office and Extras, pull off a gentle sitcom about a man who may have learning difficulties? But what Gervais has created is a moving story about a group of people living on the margins of society, with Derek the glue holding them together. The second run picks up a year after we last saw Derek and his friends. He's now fully reunited with his dad, who is moving into Broad Hill, the retirement home where Derek is a care worker. Tom and Hannah's relationship seems to have become serious, but a new volunteer is set to rock the boat...

THURSDAY
Wanted: A Family of My Own, ITV, 9pm
Presenter Nicky Campbell is the

perfect choice for helming this new four-part series about the life-changing process of adoption – because he was adopted himself as a baby. For the purpose of this at times emotional programme, cameras have followed parents desperate to adopt, and the children who need families – so that we can gain a rare insight into adoption in Britain today, and the impact it has on the lives of those involved. In this first instalment, we hear Nicky's story, before he meets Dan and Ania, who are desperate to adopt, and they receive information about two children needing a family.

FRIDAY
Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis, ITV, 8pm
The actor takes his family to Norfolk, where they begin with a boat trip along the Broads, which are made up of more than 125 miles of waterways. Next, they cross the county to visit the seaside resort of Hunstanton, which gives Warwick the chance to participate in an RNLI training exercise. He then persuades his wife and children to have a go at milking sheep at nearby Bircham Windmill, before ending the weekend at a local amusement arcade.

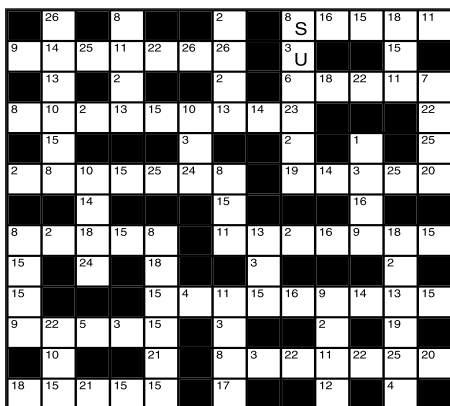
The Trip to Italy, BBC2, 10pm
Steve's assistant Kate joins him and Rob in Rome, where they also meet up with photographer Yolanda before visiting the Keats-Shelley Memorial House museum. They go on to their next restaurant, where Emma has a bit of news for them, and Rob and Steve compete with each other doing Marlon Brando impressions.



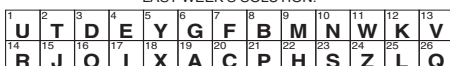
Jamaica Inn, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

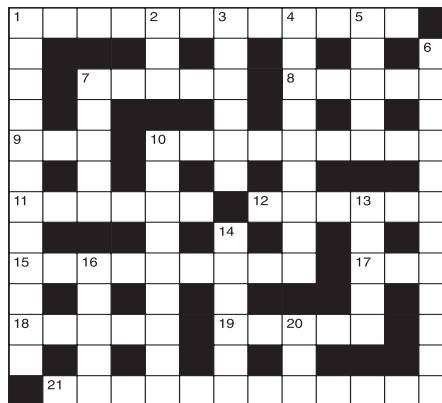
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Resolute due to threats, perhaps (5-7)
- Not the best man in the stable? (5)
- A belief in sacred office (5)
- Boat propeller (3)
- Could you mend a broken skate with it? (9)
- Is hard, perhaps, but may be eaten (6)
- Granting some misplaced ingenuity (6)
- I'd put in now for a high position in society (9)
- A politician concerned in current affairs (3)
- A bonus for an actor (5)
- Spring edition? (5)
- They help people grow better (5,7)

Down

- Song part here distributed to an office girl (12)
- Also comes to nothing (3)
- She and men get involved and become engaged! (6)
- He gets what's coming to him (9)
- Yet quoted as odds (5)
- Swiss cantons, for example? (7,5)
- Blush when attacked by a bull (5)
- Use face stain to attract (9)
- I am a long time getting the likeness (5)
- Emotion felt when it appears to give you a break? (6)
- Come in and start the entertainment (5)
- The whole world finds it illuminating (3)



Quick Clues:

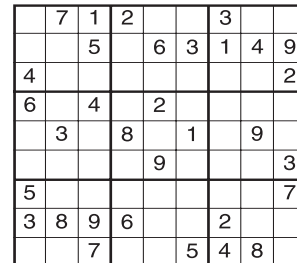
Across

- Quibbling (12)
- Hail (5)
- Vagrant (5)
- Before (3)
- Defender (9)
- Not certain (6)
- End (6)
- Distress (9)
- Prohibition (3)
- String (5)
- Bend (5)
- Untimely (12)

Down

- Indispensable condition (12)
- Wrath (3)
- Choice (6)
- Assembly (9)
- Respond to stimulus (5)
- Fearful (12)
- Conjecture (5)
- Keep on striving (9)
- Tinge deeply (5)
- Athletics implement (6)
- Pretend (5)
- Manage (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	5	7	9	6	2	1	4	8
6	4	1	3	7	8	2	5	9
2	8	9	4	5	1	7	3	6
1	3	5	6	9	7	8	2	4
4	7	8	2	3	5	6	9	1
9	2	6	8	1	4	3	7	5
7	9	2	1	4	3	5	6	8
5	6	3	7	8	9	4	1	2
8	1	4	5	2	3	9	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Service; 8 Italic; 9 Diluted; 10 Little; 11 Entrap; 12 Sea-green; 18 Overpaid; 20 Retain; 21 Opener; 22 Inflame; 23 Teases; 24 Terrace. Down: 1 Airless; 2 Partial; 3 Tiller; 5 Eminence; 6 Vaunts; 7 Caesar; 13 Economic; 14 Garnish; 15 Address; 16 Seance; 17 Sailor; 19 Ripped. QUICK - Across: 4 Discuss; 8 Openly; 9 Asinine; 10 Clever; 11 Appeal; 12 Decision; 18 Overcast; 20 Reveal; 21 Spring; 22 Quality; 23 Dilate; 24 Degrade. Down: 1 Concede; 2 Defence; 3 Alters; 5 Instance; 6 Canopy; 7 Sundae; 13 Isolated; 14 Capital; 15 Stagger; 16 Refuse; 17 Seller; 19 Repair.

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- EPC Rating C

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Dingley Dell, 395 Birmingham Road
2 Bed Detached
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Semi Detached in need of renovation
Guide: £45,000 - £50,000



4 Anglesey Street, Hednesford
3 Bed Semi
Guide: £75,000 plus



42 Charnwood Road, Great Barr
3 Bed Semi
Guide: £50,000 plus



92 Spouthouse Lane, Great Barr
2 Bed End Terraced
Guide: £59,000 - £64,000



Fellows Park Gardens, Walsall
Residential Investments
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REDUCED **PROPERTY OF THE WEEK** **EPC E**



**BEWLEY ROAD
WILLENHALL**

- Impressive Link Detached Property
- Entrance Hall
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Utility/WC
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Driveway
- Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £160,000

NEW **FEATURED PROPERTY** **EPC C**



**CADNAM CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

- Superb Modern Style Detached Property
- Corner Position
- Spacious Lounge
- Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Ample Block Paved Driveway
- Garage
- Rear Gardens

£160,000

NEW **MANAGER'S CHOICE** **EPC TBC**



**LEVEN DRIVE
COPPICE FARM**

- Improved Modern End Terrace
- No Upward Chain
- Prime Location
- Popular Estate
- Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge
- Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Brand New Family Bathroom
- Superb Large Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£150,000

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151

REDUCED **EPC D**



**SANDALWOOD CLOSE
COPPICE FARM**

- Extended link detached
- Hall ● Spacious lounge ● Dining room
- Refitted kitchen ● Four bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Rear garden ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- Garage ● Driveway ● No chain

£169,950

EPC D



**LONGWOOD RISE
WILLENHALL**

- Deceptively spacious modern style semi detached property
- Lounge ● Dining kitchen ● Conservatory
- Three bedrooms ● Refitted shower room
- Double glazing ● Gas central heating
- 32ft games room/bedroom 4 with en-suite
- Driveway ● Rear garden

£145,000

REDUCED **EPC D**



**LYNWOOD CLOSE, OFF CRAB LANE
SHORT HEATH**

- Modern Style Link Detached ● No Chain
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Hall ● Large Lounge ● Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating System ● Majority Double Glazing
- Car Port ● Driveway ● Rear Gardens
- Popular cul de sac location

OFFERS OVER £140,000

NEW **EPC D**



**DILLOWAYS LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Extended Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Through Lounge ● Fitted Kitchen
- Superb Family / Dining Room with Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Block Paved Driveway ● Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System

£135,000

REDUCED **EPC D**



**ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE
NEW INVENTION**

- Modern Style Mid Terraced Property ● Popular cul-de-sac
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Lounge ● Fitted kitchen
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Garage ● Driveway

£129,950

NEW **EPC D**



**POOL HAYES LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Semi Detached Property ● No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge ● Large Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom with Separate WC
- Garage ● Driveway ● Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System

£125,000

NEW **EPC TBC**



**BENTLEY WHARF, BENTLEY LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Exceptional Beautifully Presented Ground Floor Apartment
- Pleasant Lounge & Garden Room with Canal Views
- Superb Open Plan Kitchen with Dining Area ● Double Glazing
- Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating System
- Secured Allocated Parking Space

OFFERS OVER £110,000

REDUCED **EPC C**



**RAVENSBORNE GROVE
WILLENHALL**

- Modern style mid terrace ● No Chain
- Lounge ● Dining kitchen
- Two bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Popular cul-de-sac Location ● Allocated parking space
- Rear garden

£94,950

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**Bloxwich
WELL LANE**
• Three Bedroom Detached
• Family Bathroom•Separate W.C.
• Integral Garage•Large Driveway
• Front & Rear Gardens

£575 PCM



**Bloxwich
NURSERY ROAD**
• Three Bedroom Semi
• Lounge•Kitchen•Family Bathroom.
• Front Driveway• Double Glazing
• Gas Heating•DHSS Accepted

£525 PCM



**Walsall
DARTMOUTH CLOSE**
• THREE BED TERRACE
• D.Glazing•Lounge•Dining Room
• Kitchen•Family Bathroom
• Gardens•DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
SANDHILL STREET**
• THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
• D.Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen•Downstairs W.C.
• Conservatory•Bathroom•Gardens

£495 PCM



**Walsall
LORD STREET**
• Three Bedroom Semi Detached
• Lounge•Dining Room
• Kitchen•Family Bathroom
• Gardens•DHSS ACCEPTED

£475 PCM



**Walsall
ARCHER ROAD**
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen/Diner•DHSS Accepted
• Family Bathroom•Gardens

£475 PCM



**Bloxwich
EVESHAM CRESCENT**
• Three Bedroom Terrace
• Hallway•Fitted Kitchen
• Family Bathroom•Front and Rear
Gardens

£475 PCM



**Pelsall
WINDRUSH CLOSE**
• Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
• Double Glazing and Electric heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Bathroom
• Two Allocated Off Road Parking Spaces

£475 PCM



**Walsall
GUILD COURT**
• Two Bedroom Apartments
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Bathroom•Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing•Allocated Parking

£450 PCM



**Walsall
BASALT CLOSE**
• Two Bedroom End of Terrace
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom•ORP
• D.Glazing and Electric Heating

£450 PCM



**Walsall
SCHOOL LOFTS**
• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
• Fitted Kitchen•Shower Room
• Open Plan Lounge•Entrance Hallway
• Double Glazing•Security Entrance

£450 PCM



**Walsall
KENT STREET**
• Three Bedroom Terrace Property
• Double Glazing•Gas Central Heating
• Front Reception Room•Lounge
• Kitchen•Bathroom

£450 PCM



**Pelsall
WINDRUSH CLOSE**
• 3 BED END TOWN HOUSE
• D.Glazing•Gas Heating•Kitchen
• Bathroom•Large Gardens•Lounge/Diner
• Front Garden & Parking

£675 PCM



**Walsall
DALBY ROAD**
• Three Bedroom Detached Property
• Gas Central Heating•Lounge
• Dining Room•Kitchen•Utility•En-Suite
• Off Road Parking and a Garage

£650 PCM

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office for a
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**Willenhall
BAYNTON ROAD**
• Three Bedroom Link-Detached
• D.Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Dining Room•Fitted Kitchen
• Family Bathroom•Gardens

£595 PCM



**Bloxwich
LANCASTER PLACE**
• Two Bedroom Semi
• Lounge•Diner•Kitchen
• Bathroom•D.Glazed
• Gas Heating•Gardens•DHSS Accepted

£500 PCM



**Bloxwich
ASTBURY CLOSE**
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• One Reception room
• Kitchen•Bathroom
• Gas Central Heating•Double Glazing

£495 PCM



**Willenhall
TRENTHAM AVENUE**
• Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•DHSS Accepted
• Bathroom•Gardens•Parking

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
CHANTRY AVENUE**
• Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen•Family Bathroom
• Front and Rear Gardens

£450 PCM



**Walsall
DEERMEAD COURT**
• Two Bed Apartment
• Lounge•Fitted kitchen
• Bathroom•Electric Heating
• Double Glazing•Parking•Sorry No DHSS

From £440 PCM



**Walsall
MURDOCK WAY**
• Three Bedroom Terraced
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Dining Room•Utility•Kitchen
• Front and Rear Gardens•Sorry No DHSS.

£450 PCM



**Walsall
INFINITE HOUSE, PENDLEBURY
CLOSE**
• One Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
• Lounge•Family Bathroom
• Fitted Modern Kitchen•Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



**Rushall
STANIER CLOSE**
• Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom•Heating
• Double Glazing•Off Road Parking

£440 PCM



**Walsall
TANNERS COURT**
• One Bedroom apartment
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Parking•Electric Heating
• Bathroom•Sorry No DHSS

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
SIGNAL GROVE**
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Heating•Communal Grounds
• Allocated Parking

£425 PCM



**Walsall
PRICE STREET**
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Through Lounge/Diner
• Kitchen•Family Bathroom
• Rear Garden•Gas Central Heating

£425 PCM



**Walsall
WENLOCK GARDENS**
• Three Bedroom terraced property
• Lounge•Dining Room
• Bathroom•Front and Rear Gardens
• DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET**
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Double Glazing•Electric heating
• DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Walsall
LEWIS STREET**
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms•Bathroom
• Ground Floor Bathroom•Rear Garden
• Double Glazing•Central Heating

£400 PCM



**Walsall
BLOXWICH ROAD**
• One & Two Bedroom Flats
• Lounge•Kitchen•Parking
• Gas Central Heating
• DHSS Accepted

From £380 PCM



**Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET**
• TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT
• double glazing & gas central heating
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Bathroom•DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



**Walsall
MOAT ROAD**
• Two Bed Flat above retail premises
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Shower Room
• DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM

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WYCHBOLD WAY, NEW INVENTION



Three Bed End Town House Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Lounge And Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing And Majority C/Heating.

£106,995

BUCKINGHAM DR, NEW INVENTION



Four Bed Semi Detached Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Play Room, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & Integral Garage.

£154,995

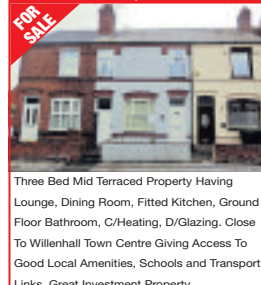
VICTORIA ST, WILLENHALL



Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR BUY TO LET!

£77,995

GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL



Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£78,995

STEPHENSON AVE, BEECHDALE



Well Presented Two Bed End Terrace Having Entrance Hall, Spacious Rear Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing & Crete Print Driveway.

£79,995

SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION



Two Bed Modern First Floor Apartment Having Communal Entrance Hall, Private Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Allocated Parking.

£89,995

POOLES LANE, SHORT HEATH



A Well Presented Three Bedroom End Of Terrace Having Front Reception Room, Rear Reception Room Being Open Plan Into Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Family Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, First Floor Separate W.C, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Good Sized Rear Garden and No Upward Chain.

£89,995

TINTERN CRES, MOSSLEY



Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. Ideal FTB Or BTL.

£89,995

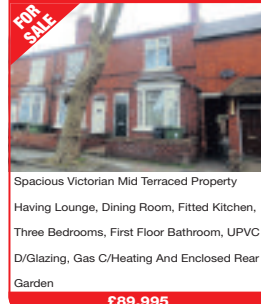
CHAUCER AVE, WILLENHALL



Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden. Ideal BTL Or FTB.

£89,995

VICTORIA ST, WILLENHALL



Spacious Victorian Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, First Floor Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden

£89,995

REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM



Immaculately Presented One Bed Ground Floor Flat Situated On The Coppice Farm Estate Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Thermostatic Mixer Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Driveway.

£92,500

BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE



Spacious Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden And Off Road Parking.

£100,000

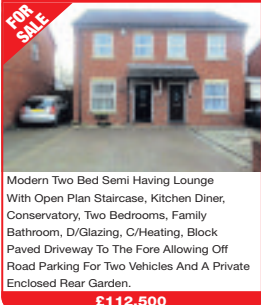
WILLENHALL ST, DARLASTON



Modern Three Bed Semi-Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/ Glazing & Allocated Parking.

£109,995

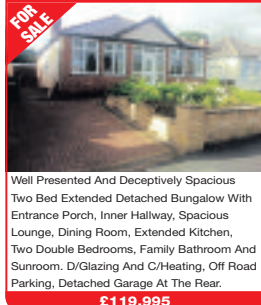
THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL



Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden.

£112,500

UPLANDS ROAD, WILLENHALL



Well Presented And Deceptively Spacious Two Bed Extended Detached Bungalow With Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Sunroom. D/Glazing And C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Detached Garage At The Rear.

£119,995

UPLANDS GROVE, PORTOBELLO



Extended Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Storage Room, Family Bathroom C/ Heating, UPVC D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Block Paved Driveway.

£119,995

UPLANDS RD, PORTOBELLO



Extended Two Bedroom Family Bungalow Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Feature 26ft Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Shower, Garage, C/ Heating, UPVC D/Glazing.

£124,995

WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH



Well Presented Extended Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom And Detached Garage, Part D/Glazing & C/Heating. Must View!

£131,995

SQUIRES GR, NEW INVENTION



Modern Two Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Two Double Bedrooms Both With En-Suite, D/ Glazing, C/Heating And Separate Garage.

£132,995

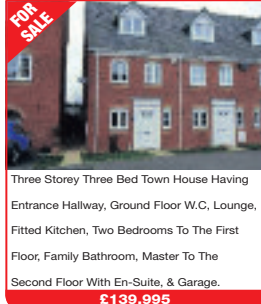
UPLANDS AVENUE, WILLENHALL



Two/Three Bed Detached Bungalow Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Basement/ Hobby Room, Cellar, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. Must View.

£139,995

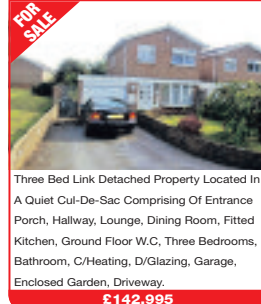
WILLOW GROVE, WILLENHALL



Three Storey Three Bed Town House Having Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms To The First Floor, Family Bathroom, Master To The Second Floor With En-Suite, & Garage.

£139,995

ENSBURY CLOSE, WILLENHALL



Three Bed Link Detached Property Located In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Enclosed Garden, Driveway.

£142,995

LONGWOOD RISE, WILLENHALL



Immaculate Three Bed Detached Property Comprises Of Spacious Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner With Integrated Oven And Hob, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£157,995

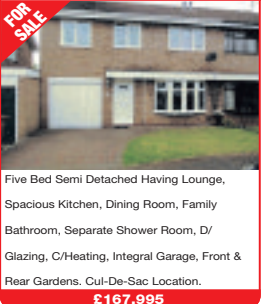
REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM



Three Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen Diner, Separate Utility Room, Family Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Driveway.

£159,995

ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL



Five Bed Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate Shower Room, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Integral Garage, Front & Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac Location.

£167,995

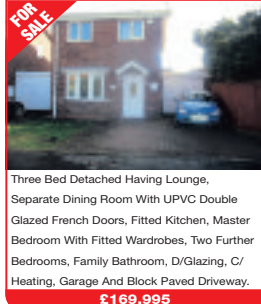
W-TON RD WEST, BENTLEY



Well Presented Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, 'P' Shaped Conservatory, Three Bedrooms To The First Floor, Bathroom With Separate Steam Shower, Bedroom Four To The Second Floor, D/Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.

£169,995

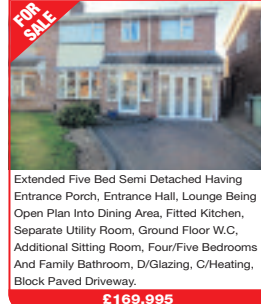
HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM



Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995

BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, WILLENHALL



Extended Five Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge Being Open Plan Into Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room, Four/Five Bedrooms And Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995

Willenhall 01902 606595

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NEW £625 pcm



Poppy Drive

- A modern 3 bed mid terrace
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and integral garage

NEW £595 pcm



Broad lane

- A well presented 3 bed semi detached
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- New family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and rear garden

NEW £575 pcm



Glebe Street

- A modern 4 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Guest WC
- Driveway and integral Garage

NEW £500 pcm



Bloxwich road

- A well presented 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted


NEW £495 pcm



Neath Road

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

NEW 450 pcm



Springhill Court

- A well presented 2 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Stylish bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Parking, DSS accepted

NEW £450 pcm



Wellington Road

- A 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double glazing throughout
- Recently re-decorated

NEW £425 pcm



Ashmore Lake Road

- A well presented 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Parking available

NEW £395 pcm



Laburnham House

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Good sized reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom with shower over bath
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Neutral decor throughout

NEW £375 pcm



Stafford Street

- A stylish 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with appliances
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- DSS accepted

NEW £350 pcm



Bradford Street

- A refurbished studio apartment
- A spacious lounge/bedroom area
- Brand new fitted kitchen with cooker
- Modern bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Town centre location

£795 pcm



Mandeville Gardens

- A modern 4 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway, Guest WC and rear garden

£795 pcm



Follyhouse Lane

- An extended 4 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 2 family bathrooms both with showers
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and rear garden EPC rating D

£700 pcm



Bloxwich Road

- A fully re-furnished 4 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 4 bathrooms all with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS considered EPC rating E

£600 pcm



Stanley Road

- An extended 3 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- 3rd reception/4th bedroom
- Driveway, guest shower room EPC rating C


£575 pcm



Follyhouse Lane

- A fully re-furnished 3 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- New fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden and Driveway EPC rating E

£550 pcm



Broadstone Avenue

- A fully re-furnished 2 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Ground floor


£550 pcm



Vincent Street

- A re-furnished 3 bed mid terrace
- 1 spacious reception rooms
- New fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Upstairs guest shower room
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

£525 pcm



Greadier Street

- A well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious through lounge
- Fitted Kitchen with side utility area
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Driveway, Guest WC, DSS accepted

£475 pcm



Weston Street

- A 3 re-decorated 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted rent in arrears for HB
- EPC rating D

£450 pcm



Darlaston Road

- A traditional 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£450 pcm



Whitehall Road

- A traditional 2 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£450 pcm



Lord Street, Palfrey

- A re-decorated 2 double bed end terrace
- 2 Spacious reception rooms
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating E


£425 pcm



Stroud Avenue

- A choice of three 2 bed apartments
- 2 Spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with separate WC
- Double Glazing throughout
- Viewing essential EPC rating F

£375 pcm



Prince Street

- A well presented 2 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception room
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- DSS accepted

£375 pcm



Stafford Street

- A re-furnished 1 bed 2nd floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with some appliances
- New bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£350 pcm



The Shambles

- A recently re-furnished 1 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower cubicle
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating C

£650 pcm




LET
Similar properties required

Dumblederry Lane

- A well maintained 3 bed semi detached
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with shower over the bath
- Guest WC and conservatory
- Driveway and rear garden EPC rating E

£595 pcm




LET
Similar properties required

Walsall Road

- A Well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with range cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and rear garden

£550 pcm



LET
Similar properties required

Shortlands Lane

- A traditional 3 bed semi detached
- Spacious living room
- Good size modern kitchen / diner
- Pleasant upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Enclosed rear garden and driveway

SEAT offers sporty route to get green credentials

By David Banner

If you thought all economy-minded cars were bland and boring, take a look at SEAT's Leon Ecomotive.

It retains a degree of fun yet will still return fuel consumption figures of 85.6mpg and emit just 87g/km of carbon dioxide. With prices starting at less than £20,000, it's not going to break too many budgets.

With this latest third generation car, the Leon once again feels like a quality product inside and out.

Power comes from a 1.6-litre TDI diesel, mated in this instance to a six-speed manual transmission the ratios of which are spaced for optimum efficiency.

This gearbox is a fundamental difference between the Leon Ecomotive and the standard Leon 1.6 TDI, which itself emits a very modest 99 g/km, but only gets a five-speed manual gearbox. Other changes over the standard Leon 1.6 TDI include a higher engine output, up from 105PS to 110PS, and the fitment of low rolling resistance tyres. The sprint to 62mph comes and goes in around 10 seconds, so the car isn't by any means sluggish, although the relatively narrow tyres aren't going to be the very last word in ultimate grip when cornering.

The chassis of the SEAT Leon is simple in its architecture with MacPherson strut front suspension, while the rear uses torsion beam suspension. As with the rest of the Leon range, a lot of work has gone into improving the car's refinement, with particular attention devoted to isolating engine vibrations and optimising airflow over the body at speed.

SEAT hasn't left too many stones unturned in its quest to optimise the fuel economy of the Leon Ecomotive. To that end, as well as the low rolling resistance tyres, it also gets a slippery body package comprising rear and side spoilers and the suspension is lowered by 15mm, while the radiator grille is unique to the Ecomotive. The effect is quite subtle though and you still get features like 16-inch alloy wheels, front fog lights with cornering function. Rest assured, it doesn't look like a penny-pincher's sort of car.

Prices start at just over £19,000 for the three-door SC coupe, with the five-door hatch tacking £300 onto those prices and the ST estate weighing in at around £20,500. That's not at all bad value for money compared with, say, a Golf TDI BlueMotion, which costs the best part of £21,000 in hatchback form. Just because you're paying less doesn't mean that this car has been ruthlessly de-contented either. The Ecomotive is based on the popular SE specification and as such, gets features such as a leather steering wheel and gear knob, air conditioning, electric windows all around (aside from SC versions), a Bluetooth hands-free phone system, SEAT's Easy Connect multimedia system, and a front armrest/storage box.

Get in quick and you may well find your car fitted with the otherwise optional Technology Pack, which endows it with full-LED headlights (including their distinctive strip-LED daytime running lights), satellite navigation and a DAB radio – so every medium-wave radio talk show rant can be enjoyed in crystal clear digital quality.

Consumption

The big draw with the Leon Ecomotive is its incredibly low day to day running costs. Fuel consumption is rated at 85.6mpg, while emissions are a super-low 87g/km. Both of those figures are better than you'd get from a Toyota Prius hybrid. But how does this MK3 Leon Ecomotive achieve a 12g/km improvement over the second-generation version, despite being more powerful? Well, it's largely achieved by a 90kg weight reduction and a 10 per cent improvement in aerodynamic efficiency. These changes help this car travel 11.3 miles further per gallon of fuel than the standard Leon 1.6 TDI, according to their respective combined consumption ratings.

As with every other model in the Leon range, this Ecomotive variant comes with an Energy Recovery set-up and a Start/Stop System, the former to capture and store brake energy otherwise lost as heat, which can be used to power electrical systems, and the latter to shut down the engine when the car is at a standstill, preserving fuel.

The SEAT Leon Ecomotive is a strong all-round package with little in the way of significant caveats. The pricing is tight, the economy and emissions are right up there with the best, residuals are looking rosy and you even get a choice of three well-equipped body styles with much-improved build quality. Show me how SEAT's going wrong there.

Okay, so if you buy into the whole SEAT sports thing, you might well find the Leon Ecomotive not quite as exciting as some other models in the range, but it's still a decent drive, certainly offering a good deal more involvement than a Prius. It depends on what you're looking for from family-sized eco-minded transport. If you don't want to make too many compromises from a 'normal' family car, the SEAT will be for you. If you want to look conspicuously green, choose a hybrid. One thing's for sure though. I'd back the Leon Ecomotive to win any such comparison when it came to three year running costs. We're always looking for ways to cut costs without affecting desirability. SEAT has the answer.



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GUEST
Motors Limited

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Personal contract purchase representative example:
V40 Diesel Hatchback D2 R-Design 5 door

Cash price of vehicle £21,075.70	Customer deposit £1,999.00	Manufacturer deposit contribution £500.00	Total amount of credit £18,576.70	Total charge for credit £3,131.80	42 monthly payments £239.00	Duration in months 43	One final payment (GFV) £11,670.50	Fixed rate of interest (per annum) 3.04%	Representative APR 5.9%	Total amount payable £24,207.50	Mileage per annum 8,000	Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile
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A top-class performer off-road and a true icon

By Sharon Walters

In a Miss Universe contest the Jeep Wrangler wouldn't get past the third reserves to strut its stuff and say how much it likes travelling, children and cuddly kittens.

Because, let's face it, the Wrangler is no beauty – not even a pretty little thing. Although it certainly has iconic looks and ones which you would never forget.

But where it does win hands down is in its ability to get down and dirty and take on just about any difficult road conditions and be an ultimate off-road machine.

Oh, and by the by, on-road its ride is more than OK for a car like this.

While I didn't actually need full off-road abilities during a road test a couple of weeks ago, I did need a car with plenty of grip and clearance during the floods.

I rather fondly called it my 'Tonka' toy as I traversed roads awash with water and mud – and bumped in and out of the massive potholes which have appeared during the past few months.

Earlier this year the legendary Wrangler demonstrated its award-winning credentials after taking 4x4 magazine's 4x4 of the Year, for the second year running. The award, which goes specifically to the four-door Wrangler, came from the specialist publication's panel of expert judges, who put the rugged US-built off-roader above some extremely capable competitors.

Its off-road prowess shone as it used its immense power and torque while delivering a gorgeously low, first crawler gear when finesse was needed. Towing is also easy for this meaty vehicle. And while it is rough and tough looking, inside it is comfortable and well equipped, offering good value for money. In fact, its standard specification offers so much, there is very little to opt for in 'extras'. On the list, far too extensive to go into detail here, are 18in x 7.5in alloy wheels painted in satin silver with 255/70 R18 on/off-road tyres, front fog lights, air conditioning with automatic temperature control, front and rear electric windows, trip computer, media centre including radio, Uconnect phone with voice command, USB connectivity and 6.5in colour touchscreen satellite navigation, Infinity premium audio system, Command-Trac shift-on-the-fly 4WD system, hill descent control and hill start assist.

Fold-down

The Wrangler comes in three versions – Sport, Sahara and 70th Anniversary – with two and four-door options. It has removable doors, exposed hinges, a fold-down windscreen and innovative removable and convertible tops – great for living in the great outdoors when it's dry!

The Jeep Freedom Top, a three-piece modular hardtop, is standard across the range and provides more options for open-air driving. I did try removing the hardtop, during one brief dry spell, and aside from being a little short to manhandle it, found it easy to remove and put back.

There's plenty of room for five adults, even in the four door, and adequate load space.

The driver can operate almost everything from the steering wheel including the radio, cruise control and hands-free phone. But one annoying thing about the phone is the 'voice'.

It really is hands-free, except for putting your thumb down on the button on the steering wheel to call or answer. You request your service by voice activation, lovely, and it even reads your phone book to find numbers. You say the name and hey presto it calls, except its reading ability is a little odd and you get some very amusing versions of your friend's names repeated back to you for confirmation!

With high ground clearance combined with short front and rear overhangs, the Jeep Wrangler has the ability to conquer challenging off-road obstacles, especially severe inclines. Off-road enthusiasts recognise the key numbers: an approach angle of 37.8 degrees, breakover angle of 25.5 degrees and departure angle of 29.7 degrees.

The engine for all Jeep Wrangler models is a 2.8-litre V-6 CRD producing 197bhp with a standard six-speed manual gearbox with stop-start technology or an available five-speed automatic transmission (460 Nm of torque).

Sport and Sahara models are equipped with the second-generation Command-Trac NV241 part-time, two-speed transfer case with a 2.72:1 low-range gear ratio.

A little history is worth mentioning here. The modern day Wrangler dates back to the first Willys MB Jeep first produced in 1941, making it the oldest off-road vehicle make, and the first civilian models were produced in 1945.

It inspired a number of other light utility vehicles, such as the Land Rover, which is the second oldest four-wheel drive brand. The original Jeep vehicle was the primary light four-wheel drive vehicle of the United States Army and Allies during World War Two, as well as the postwar period.

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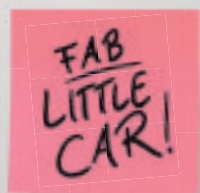
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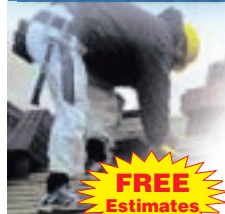
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Saddlers record for early bird tickets

WALSALL have announced record sales for their Early Bird season ticket renewals.

For the second year running sales smashed through the 2,000 barrier, with an overall increase on the amount sold 12 months ago, which was a six-year high.

The Saddlers have spent the entire campaign battling in the top half of League One and though their play-off hopes have faded in recent weeks, chief executive Stefan Gamble believes the ticket news shows fans still have plenty of belief in manager Dean Smith and the club's "football philosophy".

"The response has been phenomenal," said Gamble. "The club is indebted to those supporters who have parted with their hard-earned cash in a continually difficult economic climate.

"This demonstrates that there is great belief in the direction in which the club is moving and in the football philosophy Dean Smith and his team are attempting to implement." Gamble suggested the increased sales could boost Smith's playing budget this summer as he looks to take the final step which would see the Saddlers become genuine promotion contenders.

Bakayoko's future 'is a bright one'

TEENAGE hotshot Amadou Bakayoko is being tipped for a bright future as Dean Smith admitted the striker could feature further in Walsall's final run-in.

The 18-year-old youth team product made his senior debut as a second half substitute in the 1-0 defeat at Port Vale.

Boss Smith was impressed by the youngster's contribution and hinted he may get further chances to show what he can do as the campaign draws to a close.

"He is bright and has a lot of time on his side," said Smith. "He got on at Port Vale and had a couple of chances he will feel he should have done better with.

"But he is only a young kid and he is still learning the game and he has a bright future ahead of him.

"It's a great experience for him. He has got a bit of greenness about him where he will just enjoy the experience."

Hughes hits three in win

Sporting Khalsa 4 Shifnal Town 0

KHALSA'S run of good form in the West Midlands Regional League continued on Saturday with a comfortable win over Shropshire side, Shifnal Town.

Khalsa got the first goal through Sam Pearson. In the 35th Kieron Northwood lofted a great ball allowing Liam Hughes to slot the ball home.

Within two minutes of the start of the second half Hughes put Khalsa three up. With 10 minutes to go Mark Habbershaw went clearand a side pass to Hughes was tapped in by the Khalsa's striker to get his hat-trick.

Wood block off win with comeback

Walsall Wood 2 Tipton Town 2

AFTER going 2-0 down in 20 minutes, Wood staged a remarkable comeback, with Harry Harris scoring twice in the last 12 minutes to give them a share of the points.

Tipton edged the opening exchanges and on eight minutes a ball over the top of the Wood defence was collected at pace by Marvin Nisbett. He raced into the left of the box and keeper Raajan Gill mistimed his challenge and the resultant penalty was tucked away by Danny Ashton.

On 13 minutes Wood's Craig Hancox found Harry Harris in the D. He showed good close control before turning and hitting a low drive that James Pemberton saved comfortably. Two minutes later Nisbett again got away on the left and his cross to the far post was agonisingly inches away from Callum Martin. With 20 minutes gone

Football

Nisbett was again causing problems wide left. His ball inside was collected by Ben Hadley, who looked offside, to run on and score with a low drive.

Three minutes later it should have been 0-3. Conner Gater racing away down the left before cutting inside and putting the ball on a plate for Ashton four yards out but he delivered the ball into the grateful hands of Gill.

Wood started to make inroads when on 29 minutes Lewis Taylor Boyce hit a low cross into the box, Joey Butlin stepped over the ball and Harris hit a low drive that was well held by Pemberton. With 34 minutes gone Deakin and Jamie Hawkins combined cleverly on the right but the cross was just

too high for Harris, who could only glance a header wide. Two minutes later a powerful right wing run by Max Black saw his cross put behind by Joe Rogers to deny Andre Gonzales.

Then on 39 minutes Rogers raced onto a ball on the right before cutting inside and hitting a rising drive just too high. Wood had the last attack of the half, Harris hitting a lovely crossfield ball into the right of the box that Deakin collected at speed. Gater saved Town with a superb tackle.

Just to remind Wood he was still a danger Nisbett got clear on 55 minutes. His low ball across the face of the six yard box was stabbed wide by Hadley. Ten minutes later Nisbett raced through the centre. He was half stopped by Boothe but won the ball back and raced into the box where skipper Lee Stretton made a superbly-timed tackle

to put the ball behind for a corner. In a packed penalty area a shot crashed off the foot of the right hand post. It was delivered back across goal and Gonzales headed a goalbound effort off the line. On 78 minutes a long clearance from Gill was won by Butlin. He crossed into the right of the box and Drew Aiton flicked the ball on for Harris to score on the volley.

Just before the end, Taylor Boyce found Aiton on the left of the box and his first time effort deflected for a left wing corner. Harris curled the ball into the near post and Pemberton and three Town defenders somehow allowed the ball to sail into the net. Wood almost stole all three points on 90 minutes when Gonzales fed Harris wide left. He crossed to the far post and Waterhouse made an important block to deny Butlin.

Olympics' late goal puts them into final

Walsall Senior Cup Semi-final. Walsall Wood 0 Rushall Olympic 1

RUSHALL will face Chasetown at Bescot in the final, courtesy of a goal two minutes from time from substitute Carl Ashton.

But the Evo Stik Premier play-off hopefuls were perhaps fortunate Wood did not at least take the tie into extra time, as overall they played by far the better football.

Football

It was all the Pics at the start with Dele Adebola seemingly involved in almost everything but it was Wood who nearly went ahead on 13 minutes.

Lewis Taylor Boyce collected a crossfield ball before racing to the byeline and crossing low to Joey Butlin, who had two efforts blocked from close range.

On 17 minutes a left wing free kick dropped invitingly for Neil Kitching but his close-range effort was brilliantly saved by Raajan Gill at the expense of a corner.

From this Pics indulged in a bout of head tennis in the Wood box, the final header clearing the bar.

At the other end Taylor Boyce cut in from right and set up Butlin to hit a low drive that keeper Liam Maher scrambled clear.

Adebola collected the ball from a right wing throw, turned and shot, but Shawn Boothe deflected the ball over the bar. From the corner Adebola got in a downward header that was cleared off the line.

On 35 minutes Zak Martin attacked wide left and his low cross was taken low at the near post by Gill.

Two minutes later a long ball forward saw Gill race from his area to deny Adebola. It was route one again on 45 minutes, Adebola heading the ball down to Martin, whose first time

shot was blocked. On 63 minutes Craig Hancox made space on the left and his crossfield ball saw Maher race from his area to head clear from Taylor Boyce.

Three minutes later Hancox was fouled on the left edge of the box and Butlin fired the free kick inches over the far angle.

Then on 78 minutes a lovely move through the centre by Wood put Hancox in space. He crossed to beyond the right hand post and Harry Harris volleyed just wide.

A minute later Wood should have gone ahead. Butlin was strong in a challenge on halfway and raced for goal. Under intense pressure he tried to lay the ball off right to Taylor Boyce but the ball was inches behind him.

With 84 minutes gone, Taylor Boyce collected a ball over the top wide right. He cut inside and his low drive was held at the second attempt by Maher.

Then on 88 minutes Adebola took the ball out to the left, turned back inside and found substitute Ashton.

His low effort appeared to deflect off a defender and Gill, having to change direction, was fractions away as the ball went just inside his right hand post, to deny Wood the extra 30 minutes.

Disappointing end to league sees another loss



Walsall's Jamie Hickman breaks through tackles on his way to score an early try for his team

Walsall 20 Berkswell & Balsall 26

WALSALL'S final league game of the season proved to be another disappointment with the Delves Road team suffering a fourth successive defeat.

The hosts were in the lead after just two minutes as Wootton and Pittaway made breaks before flanker Hickman broke through from 20 metres. Weston added the difficult conversion. But the visitors were committed to attacking at every opportunity and quickly-taken penalties saw them draw level when flanker Cart supported a quick break.

Berkswell dominated a scrum close to the Walsall line and scrum half Bevit-Smith got the touchdown.

It was a similar scenario just before half time, but this time the ball was moved wide and full back Mitchener crossed near the corner flag.

The second half saw Walsall do most of the attacking with the team showing much-improved ball retention skills. Simpson, McGuirk and Benson were making several good ball carries. Sustained pressure resulted in a Weston penalty.

But Walsall struggled to cope with Berkswell's powerful scrum. The visitors gained position close to the Walsall line, and their domination of the scrum resulted in a penalty try which Mulcahy converted. In the final minutes the hosts reduced the deficit when prop Gauden was driven over with Weston converting.

He then ensured a tense finish when he put over a 35 metre penalty. But the visitors held on.

40-run defeat in cup contest

KVCC 174 all out (40 overs) Walsall 134 all out (33.4 overs) KVCC won by 40 runs

WINNING the toss Walsall invited Kidderminster Victoria to bat in their Williamson Trophy 1st round tie.

It gave them an early success when opener Craig Wood was bowled by Josh Bowker for a duck.

But good knocks, including 56 from Neil Pinner, saw them reach 174 all out.

Dave Powles took 2-16, Paul Byrne 2-29, Dave Bowker 2-34, J Bowker 2-38 and Paul Wicker 1-21.

Walsall lost their first three wickets, James Middleton, Michael Hingley and Simon, for just 17 runs. The fourth wicket added 53 runs before Alex McChristie was caught for 14. Two more wickets fell with the score only rising to 74. Byrne and Jack Biddulph were both out without scoring, bowled by Michael Hill.

Walsall fought back with Powles in fine form hitting 62 with four 4s and four 6s, before Pinner ended a splendid innings with a super return catch.

Wicker was run out for 21, Hurras Butt bowled for one and Dave Bowker caught behind for none. Josh Bowker was 5no.

Lalkovic looks for big finish

MILAN Lalkovic has declared his determination to finish with a flourish at Walsall after admitting the Saddlers have lacked a "killer touch" this season.

Hopes of a top six finish t over for Dean Smith's men as they trail Peterborough by 11 points with just four games remaining.

The Saddlers have scored just 45 goals in 41 games this season and striker Lalkovic admits it has been the failure to finish teams off which has cost them most.

"I don't think it's the amount of goals as such but the killer goal we've been lacking," he said. "You don't have to win four or five nil every game, but you need to win the close ones.

"A lot of games we have drawn 1-1, 2-2 or lost 1-0."

The 21-year-old loanee will return to parent club Chelsea at the end of the campaign but does not want his time at the Banks's to end with a whimper.

Return game off the rails

AFTER winning the previous week Stafford Road A played their return fixture at British Rail on a big, sluggish and bobbly green. The Bloxwich team's first four went on hoping to get a good start.

Brian Arnold (21-15), Brian Lloyd (21-19) and Adrian Birch (21-10) won but in the middle there was only one winner Ken Fencott (21-17). Roger Garbett went on last and even though the game was over, he had an impressive 21-16 win but Stafford Road lost by 22 shots (182-160).

The B team got a well-earned home win over Breakaway.



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On track to take league crown

FC Reedswood 2 Coventrians 0

AN even sided first half saw the teams go in goalless.

The first goal came from playing to the whistle. The ball was passed into space heading for Bithell, who was just offside.

Some of the Coventrian players stood still and waited for the linesman to flag but Wilcox got to the loose ball and following a driven run down the wing found Hughes, who calmly slotted home.

Coventrians responded well and their perseverance nearly paid off when they were able to get behind the back line and one-on-one with the keeper but Knight and the defence recovered.

FCR doubled their lead with 25 minutes to go. Hughes sent a left footed drive across the six yard box. Mudge was able to get on the end of it to finish.

An excellent save denied Hughes following a cross from the right by Bithell. Watton also came close but the keeper was able to parry the ball away. Mudge put the ball in the path of Williams, who did not get the contact to test the keeper.

FCR's next game is at Leamington Ladies on April 27 where a win would confirm them as WMRL Premier Division League Champions.

Villa claim challenge cup

PELSALL Villa FC beat Longhorn FC 2-0 in an evenly fought final of Lichfield & Walsall District Football League's Lichfield Challenge.

In the Rikki Harrison Trophy Final Oak Park Rangers were completely in control as they beat Turnpike FC 4-1.

In the League One Brownhills Comm beat Pelsall Villa Colts 4-3.

League Three: Alma FC 1 Walsall Phoenix 0; Boatmans Rest 2 Hussey Arms 3.

League Four: Cellar Door 3 Dosthill Rangers 1.

Results in the League trophy were: Group A, Longdon Chet 0 Dog FC 1; Group B, Swan FC 4 Green Rock Tavern 1; Group C, Cannock Wood 8 Ros Park 0; Group D, Paradise FC 1 Boney Hay FC 3, Trident FC 1 Sheffield FC 0, Wych Elm FC 8 Trent Valley Rovers 3.

Skipper wants to resolve contract quickly

CAPTAIN Andy Butler said he wants to know Walsall's plans for next season before committing his future.

The influential Saddlers skipper is out of contract at the end of the current campaign but has an option to extend his deal by a further year.

Butler is hopeful of resolving his future soon and revealed he will hold further talks with manager Dean Smith before making a final decision.

"I'm talking to Dean now and hopefully we get something sorted soon," he said. "I've had a few chats with him and we will

Football

see what happens. I've enjoyed my time here. The last three-and-a-half years have been brilliant for me. They have made me a better player than I ever was before.

"I'm still enjoying myself. I just need to talk to the gaffer now to see what is happening."

When pressed if he was likely to stay, Butler replied: "I don't want to say I'm not staying because I do like this place. The gaffer has been good to me and I do enjoy it. It's just a few little things I have to talk

to the gaffer about." Butler, who has made more than 150 appearances since joining as a free agent in 2010, also rejected rumours his move home to live in Yorkshire last year would have any bearing on his decision.

The centre-back currently commutes to training with team-mates Richard O'Donnell, Nicky Featherstone and Craig Westcarr.

"I have heard people asking about my travelling but it has been a year now," he said. "It's been good, we have a good car pool and time travels fast. That has not been a problem, it is not an issue. I just

want to speak to the gaffer now and see what the plans are for next year."

Whatever the future holds, Butler is keen for a quick resolution and wants to avoid the kind of saga which surrounded Will Grigg and Febian Brandy last summer, who both left the club after prolonged talks.

"I do want it tied up," he said. "I'm 30 so I have to start tying my future up early I think because not too many want a 30-year-old now. It's something I have got to try and sort out pretty quickly, just for both sides really, I don't want to mess anybody about."

Reds fall short in fightback

Bustlehome 5 Willenhall 4 WILLENHALL nearly pulled off a fantastic comeback, but missed a host of chances in the West Midlands Premier basement battle.

Jamel Fuller fired inches over, Jake Morgan's header was clawed away by the keeper and Max Whitehouse headed just over before Bustlehome took the lead when a shot escaped from Ben Newton's hands and rolled over the line.

Fuller hit the inside of a post, Eddie Wilson then had a shot cleared off the line after Morgan's initial effort had been blocked before Bustlehome's Mohammed Draouil scored. Newton then made a fine save from Chris Norton's penalty.

Draouil curled one into the corner on 48 minutes and he got his hat-trick five minutes later. Jack Whitehouse made it five.

On 70 minutes, Lockmen sub Alex Carling headed home a Wilson free-kick. Carling and skipper Paul Holden had shots blocked and Wilson forced a superb save. Sub Callum Foster scored on 78 minutes and Craig Sudlow and Carling both scored from headers but Bustlehome survived.

Topping bill is dream for Luke

LUKE Paddock tops the bill on EJKO Promotions' show at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, May 16.

The 22 year-old Walsall fighter lifted the British Bronze Masters light welterweight title at the hall last month revealed topping the bill in his hometown against Bulgarian Kristian Dochevis a 'dream come true'.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, April 17

CHAMBERS FEARS ON TABLE FINISH

Walsall 1 Bristol City 1

FRUSTRATED James Chambers claimed a mid-table finish for Walsall would be a "travesty" after their play-off dream was ended.

The Saddlers already slim chances of making the top six were effectively extinguished by Saturday's 1-0 home defeat to Bristol City.

Dean Smith's men trail sixth-placed Peterborough by 11 points with just four games remaining.

And full-back Chambers fears they now also risk slipping back into the middle of the pack, after a season in which they have rarely been outside the top eight.

The 33-year-old says players should be spurred on by the desire to prove this season has been a good one.

"It would be a travesty if we fell away into mid-table now," he said.

Poorly

"We have been in and around the play-offs most of the season and I think we need to finish in a position which respects the performances we have put in.

"For me, if it peters out, then it has been a bad season.

"Obviously we wanted to make the play-offs but if we were to finish poorly then it is what I would call a travesty and a bad season.

"That is the motivation to go and push on and win

Football

these last four games."

For the second week running the Saddlers conceded from the penalty spot as Sam Baldock scored the only goal of the game just before half-time.

Sam Mantom missed the chance to level from 12 yards in the second half, as his spot-kick was saved by visiting keeper Simon Moore.

With the play-offs now gone, Chambers believes the Saddlers have not matched their potential.

"It's easy to say the table does not lie but for me I believe we are one of the top six teams in this division," he added.

"I would not want to put a target on where I want us to finish now, I've only just resigned myself to the fact we won't be in the top six but I really want us to kick on these next few games.

"When you look at the table and you have just missed out, you have something to be proud about.

"I think if you sit mid-table it is mediocrity.

"For us, as players, staff and fans, I think we all know the potential at this place is better than that."



Walsall's James Chambers battles it out with Bristol City's Sam Baldock

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